Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية ،الراي،

Volume 22 Number 6581 AMMANN SUNDAY, JULY 13, 1997, RAB'I I 8, 1418 Price: Jordan 200 Fils

Mediterranean Forum meets in Algeria

PARIS (R) — The Mediterranean Forum opened its two-day meeting in Algiers Friday with officials from 11 countries representing states in the region, the official APS news agency said. "The Mediterranean Forum is a long term (political) project... its discussions would cover also financial cooperation and human issues within the framework of future free trade zone association," APS said. The meeting was attended by the foreign ministers of France, Italy, Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria while remaining countries will be represented by two secretary of states and diplomats.

Israeli army kills Lebanese civilian

TYRE, Lebanon (AFP) — Israeli troops killed an elderly Lebanese civilian when they shelled a village in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in south Lebanon, U.N. peace-keepers said Saturday. An Israeli tank fired a shell in the direction of Aadchit village in the occupied zone, killing a farmer in his 70s, Ahmad Sueidane, an officer with the U.N. Interim Force In south Lebanon said. The officer gave no reason for the Israeli shelling, though an Israeli soldier was injured Thursday in an attack by Hizbollah guerrillas. In Israel, a military spokesman confirmed the killing and said it happened by accident when Israeli soldiers spotted "suspicious movement in the security zone."

Israeli soldiers wound 7 in Hebron; close Arab shops

Clashes started by Hebron Jewish settlers stoning Palestinian youths

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI SOLDIERS shot and wounded seven Palestinians during clashes on Saturday in the volatile West Bank town of Hebron, witnesses said.

Palestinian rioters shouting "Jewish settlers out," pelted Israeli soldiers with fire bombs, stones and empty bottles. The troops fired back with rubber bullets injuring two Palestinians.

The clashes broke out after a group of 25 Jewish settlers started throwing stones at Palestinian youths in the city's downtown area, the site of daily violence. Israeli soldiers removed the settlers and were then attacked by Palestinians.

Soldiers also took over the rooftop of a home owned by a Palestinian medic who lives on the front-line of the clash site and were using it as a base to shoot at rioters down below.

"I live in a hell, my home is on the line of fire," said Nihad Abu Zaeneh, a 33-year-old father of four children. He said soldiers informed him his rooftop was now a base for the troops. His children stayed inside the house screaming as the sounds of gunfire from above echoed inside the stone house.

One hour earlier, troops closed Palestinian shops in downtown Hebron in retaliation for the riots and detained four shopkeepers who resisted army orders.

Soldiers pushed and shoved several merchants who wouldn't lock up immediately. One of those detained was a butcher who had asked to stay open until a bridegroom who had ordered meat for his

(Continued on page 2)



Palestinian youth burn the Israeli flag during demonstrationS in the West Bank city of Ramallah Saturday as a thousand protesters demonstrated against an anti-Muslim poster which was plastered in Hebron by a Jewish extremist (AFP photo)

Economic cooperation no alternative to political progress – Prince Hassan

'Peace process must lead to creation of Palestinian state'

By Ghalia Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday said economic cooperation is no alternative to political progress in the peace process which must lead to the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people, halting the building of settlements and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

In his inaugural address to the opening ceremony of the Medpartenariat conference, Prince Hassan said the World Bank defines the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region as a region that covers members of the Arab League, plus Iran. He added that although Turkey is not included by the World Bank in the MENA region, it is a member of the Euro-Medpartenariat process.

"In the event of this leading to recognition of a Palestinian state, leading to an end to settlement policies, leading to a recognition of the positive contribution to Palestinian people in free trade, not in protective measures of closed economies, this process can include a vital contributive Israeli economy," Prince Hassan added.

He said the Medpartenariat process can create one of the largest free trade areas in the world with a population of more than 600 million people and a combined Gross National Product (GNP) of approximately $7 trillion.

Prince Hassan sited the Swiss Trade Initiative in the Middle East North Africa (STIMENA) as an "example of how regional economic development can contribute to the Middle East process of economic rehabilitation, starting with the core parties: Egypt, the Palestinian territories, Israel and Jordan, as well as Syria and Lebanon in the event of their full participation in a comprehensive search for peace."

"This aims to stimulate intra-regional trade and investment, as well as to harmonise and develop trade relations with key third countries. Looking into the future, it is possible to consider not only the free movement of goods and services, but also the free

(Continued on page 2)



HRH Crown Prince Hassan speaking at the opening ceremony of the Medpartenariat conference in Amman, Saturday (Photo by Yousef Allan)

IAF's deliberations fail to unify positions on elections

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A meeting of the Islamic Action Front's (IAF) Executive Council yesterday night failed to reach a final decision on whether to boycott the 1997 general elections and conform to the decision taken on Wednesday by the Muslim Brotherhood.

In a press statement, the council said a final deliberation had been postponed "in order to study the situation with other opposition parties and independent personalities."

"We hope that the government will realise the danger of the situation instead of trying to further marginalise the role of political parties and Parliament.

"A reconsideration of the Election Law, the Press and Publications Law and the level of public freedoms in the country could forge ground for rectifying failures accumulated from 1993 until now," the statement said.

The close-door meeting was chaired by IAF Secretary General Ishaq Farhan.

On Friday, the head of the higher committee for coordination among the opposition parties, Salem Nahas, told the Jordan Times that a meeting of the leaders of 11 opposition parties, including the IAF, has been called for on Monday "to study the Muslim Brotherhood's decision."

Also on Friday, IAF Spokesperson Hamzeh Mansour told the Jordan Times that "it will take a week or two, before a final decision (on whether to boycott the elections) is made."

The IAF Executive Council members were not immediately available to disclose details on yesterday night's meeting, but contradictory declarations to the press issued by

(Continued on page 2)

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Muslim Brotherhood's general supervisor Abdul Majeed Thneibat said yesterday the Press and Publications Law, the one-person, one-vote system, the normalisation of ties with Israel and "the government's measures to marginalise political parties" were the main reasons behind the movement's decision to boycott the 1997 general elections.

"We (the Brotherhood) are not an appendix which can be removed easily," Mr. Thneibat declared.

Stressing that Wednesday's "decision is not a declaration of war against the regime, but a request for reforms," he maintained that the Brotherhood "has not turned its reformist policies into a revolution.

"We are against violence and confrontation with the state," he said.

Mr. Thneibat said the Brotherhood has established contacts with political parties and the professional associations and invited them to cooperate to reach a "national programme aimed at convincing the government to abolish all temporary laws."

"We are planning to call for a national conference that will include all political parties to discuss this issue," he said, adding that "the government should not transform the battle into a confrontation with the Brotherhood, because this will not solve the crisis facing the country."

"I am optimistic that this decision will lead to a national unity among all opposition parties," he concluded.

U.N. studies Iraqi request to import goods via Syria

BAGHDAD (AFP) — United Nations experts are in Baghdad to study an Iraqi proposal to import goods via its new friend Syria, giving the sanctions-hit country a fourth outlet, a U.N. official here said Saturday.

"A team of special experts from the (Sanctions) Committee is in Iraq now to discuss a proposal option for the opening of the fourth crossing point on the Syrian-Iraqi border," the official said, asking not to be named.

He said the experts would meet with Iraqi officials but did not say how long their visit would last.

The Syrian-Iraqi border was opened to businessmen in early June after a 15-year closure, as the two countries ruled by rival wings of the Baath Party edge toward economic cooperation without renewing their diplomatic ties severed in 1980.

The two countries have signed contracts for the first time since 1980, and Syria has suggested its Mediterranean ports be used as a transit point for goods destined for Iraq.

An Arab diplomat in Iraq said around 350 Syrian businessmen are expected in Baghdad in the coming days to discuss new contracts.

The United Nations and Iraq agreed an "oil-for-food" deal which came into effect in December easing the oil and trade embargo imposed after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Under the deal, Iraq can sell $2 billion of oil every six months to raise money to buy food and medicine under strict international control.

The U.N. has so far authorised three entry points for goods into Iraq: the Iraqi Gulf port of Umm Qasr, the Iraqi-Jordanian border and the Khabur crossing point on Iraq's border with Turkey.

The U.N. said Tuesday that Iraq has so far imported a million tonnes of goods under the oil-for-food accord.

Egyptian leader calls for Arab common market

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak called for Arab states to set up a common market to boost trade and investment, in remarks published here Saturday.

"We need an Arab common market in which economic borders are opened up and goods flow freely and without barriers," Mr. Mubarak told the English language Arab Times, in an interview also carried in its Arabic sister paper Al Seyassah.

"As a result of this, the quality of Arab products will improve and joint industrial projects will be set up," he said.

Developing a common market would help boost inter-Arab trade, which now stands at just eight per cent of foreign trade, the Egyptian president said.

"More cooperation is better than aid. By linking Arab economies through an Arab common market, it would mean the flow of capital among these countries which is better than aid," he added.

Speaking about Cairo's relations with Washington, Mr. Mubarak said: "Our relations with the United States are good and I have no complaints about it."

"It is unfair to describe stable relations like those between Egypt and the U.S. as passing through difficult times, based on newspaper reports or after a parliamentary discussion," he added.

But he did not say which reports he was referring to.

"In our relations there are constant parameters which do not change even if opinions and views differ about a particular issue," he said.

Israel snubs British minister over 'pro-Palestinian' speech

LONDON (AFP) — The Israeli government has snubbed a British minister by recommending that Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin not meet with her on his visit to Britain after she made a pro-Palestinian speech, the Israeli embassy in London said Friday.

"Her comments were one of the reasons why the meeting did not go ahead," said a spokesman, adding that a meeting had also been difficult to arrange in a tight timetable. A meeting with British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook was still scheduled, and the embassy confirmed Friday that Mr. Beilin did in fact meet Ms. Short as well late Thursday, against the embassy's advice and without the accompaniment of the ambassador.

In a speech by Secretary of State for Overseas Development Clare Short to the charity group Medical Aid for Palestinians, three weeks ago, Ms. Short said: "I am very conscious of the historical wrongs done to the Palestinian people — and the unfairness of the world's expectation that they should make sacrifices to make up for the evil done by Europeans during the holocaust."

The Israeli Foreign Ministry complained to the British government, saying the comments compared Israel's attitude towards the Palestinians to the Nazi's attitude to Jews.

A spokesman quoted by Friday's Independent newspaper said Ms. Short "didn't mean to cause any offence and doesn't believe it was an offensive remark" but was merely laying out an historical context of the present conflict. The row comes on the eve of a visit to Britain by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, during which he will meet Prime Minister Tony Blair Monday and discuss possible future membership of the Commonwealth with Secretary General Emeka Anyaoku.

Responding to the criticism of Ms. Short Friday, Afif Safieh, of the Palestinian general delegation in London, said he found "totally outrageous the campaign waged" against Ms. Short, accusing Israel of "intellectual terrorism."

"The denial of our suffering by those who inflicted it upon us is as nauseating as all denials and atrocities and injustices," he said.

He added that Israel was attempting "a new version of political inquisition to silence such expressions of sympathy for our sufferings" which Palestinian people considered "extremely offensive and totally repulsive resulting from an unacceptable anti-Arab and Islamophobic racism."

Yilmaz wins confidence vote marred by brawl inside Turkish parliament

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's parliament erupted in a brawl Saturday as deputies passed a vote of confidence in Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, bringing the final curtain down on the country's first Islamist government.

Mr. Yilmaz, who heads a conservative secular coalition, easily won the vote in a session live on television that had to be interrupted as scores of deputies from the ruling and opposition parties fought in the chamber.

The chaos erupted shortly after the debate started when a left-wing deputy unveiled a banner calling Islamist former Premier Necmettin Erbakan a "pimp."

Parliament Speaker Mustafa Kalemli briefly interrupted the sitting, later ordering several deputies out of the chamber. After a break of more than 10 minutes, the session resumed and the confidence debate continued.



A left-wing member of Turkish parliament unveils a placard Saturday, calling previous Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan a 'pimp.' The placard caused a brawl forcing the parliament speaker to interrupt the sitting and later to order several deputies out of the chamber (AFP photo)

Mr. Yilmaz, the leader of the conservative Motherland Party, won by 280 votes to 256. The remainder of the deputies in the 548-seat parliament abstained or failed to vote, Mr. Kalemli said.

Earlier, a former close aide of conservative True Path Party leader Tansu Ciller, Mr. Erbakan's coalition partner, defected to the Yilmaz camp.

Yaman Toruner, a former Central Bank governor, became the 40th deputy to quit her party since the December 1995 general elections.

He said in a written statement that he would support the Yilmaz government in the confidence vote and would later join Motherland.

(Continued on page 2)

Prince Hassan's address to Medpartenariat conference

(Continued from page 1)

movement of labour which is currently so problematic," the Prince affirmed.

He said Jordan believes that regional and inter-regional cooperation is instrumental in bringing nations together and in consolidating economic ties.

"It is a powerful instrument. It can enhance peace, stability and security in the region. It can motivate neighbouring countries to open up their economies and deepen their interdependence," he added.

The three-day conference will bring together representatives from about 350 European and 150 Jordanian companies aiming to enhance economic cooperation between countries of the Mediterranean region and the European Union (EU).

The conference, organised by the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO), in cooperation with the EU, is geared towards setting up joint Jordanian-European ventures and creating a suitable environment of growth for small and Medium-size enterprises.

Participants will highlight investment and export opportunities in Jordan as well as incentives brought about by the new set of economic legislation in the country.

Prince Hassan said that Jordan has become the first country in the region to completely remove foreign exchange controls on both current and capital accounts.

He added that the country has also abolished the non-Jordanian equity ownership ceiling in most sectors including banking, insurance, telecommunications and the manufacturing industry.

The Prince added that the regulatory framework in Jordan has been improved to accommodate the new developments and changes in the economy and to pave the ground for the Kingdom's integration into the world economy.

"A business-enabling investment law is in operation together with a set of new laws. These laws cover the entire range of priorities that concern the local and international business community including Intellectual Property Rights. Harmonisation of legislation with the EU is our ultimate objective," Prince Hassan said.

The Prince said the Jordan Rift Valley can become like the Danube in central Europe an example of cooperation among neighbouring states.

"The Jordan Rift Valley is a major natural economic territory (NET) that includes sub-regional growth triangles. These represent new vehicles for cooperation in the region," he said.

He added that "regional cooperation can prove to be another means of attracting foreign investments, and therefore, sustaining economic growth at both the regional and national levels. The national and regional dimensions, in both political and economic terms, provide the bases for our practical approach towards cooperation in the Euro-Med region."

Prince Hassan said that although the share of the MENA region of the $227 billion of private investment in developing countries in 1996 was only $7 billion, this region represents a huge potential.

"The share of this region has shown the most rapid rates of growth. It increased from about one per cent in 1990 to three per cent by 1996. It is precisely because of the low share, so far, that we consider it has a huge potential," Prince Hassan said, hoping that the Euro-Mediterranean region will jointly make use of this potential through the Medpartenariat conference in Jordan.

Prince Hassan concluded by saying that "this meeting is not to promote this country but to promote a larger share in developing a broader region inclusive of all and exclusive of none."

In his address to the opening ceremony, Member of the European Commission (EC) Christos Papoutsis said Jordan is an important partner to the EU and is devoted to building peace in the Middle East, promoting economic growth and creating welfare in the region.

"As an emerging market situated at the confluence of three continents, Jordan offers great economic potential. Its market has yet to be fully exploited by entrepreneurs in Euro-Mediterranean partnerships," Mr. Papoutsis said.

The Medpartenariat conference in Jordan will produce a further stimulus to the development of the private sector, said Mr. Papoutsis.

He added that the conference is targeted towards helping small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from Jordan and other Mediterranean countries as well as the EU, which are seeking to extend their business activities, by finding partners for long-term cross-border cooperation.

"SME policy ranks high on the agenda of the EU. In our changing world, small and medium size enterprises play a growing and decisive role for the creation of employment and for the economic and social stability of our regions," said Mr. Papoutsis.

"The internationalisation of SME activities is crucial, if they are to benefit from the opportunities of the international markets," he added.

Mr. Papoutsis said the Euro-Mediterranean conference held in Barcelona in 1995 is a historical milestone that created the foundations of a multilateral and lasting framework of relations through the establishment of a comprehensive partnership.

"Euro-Mediterranean cooperation is the key to achieving more economic and social stability. This partnership is an instrument to help Mediterranean countries, in their acceptance of the inevitable consequences of a global economy," he said.

He noted that although free trade between the EU and its Mediterranean partnership is necessary, it is not sufficient to bring welfare to the region.

"Above all and at the same time, there must be free trade between the Mediterranean partners themselves. This will be a challenge for the EU-Mediterranean policy in the coming years, and it is obvious that this goal can only be achieved with the political will of the Mediterranean partners themselves," Mr. Papoutsis stressed.

Minister of Industry and Trade Hani Mulki outlined Jordan's economic reform programme saying that the country's economy is undergoing such process at both the macro and sectoral levels.

"It is hoped that within the next few years, the Jordanian economy will reach a level of self-sustenance, when it will no longer be in need of support to finance its balance of payments deficit," Dr. Mulki said.

He highlighted the importance of the new set of economic laws the country has introduced in order to jump-start the economy. These laws, he said, included the new Securities law, the Companies Law, the new Secured Financing Law and the new Customs Law.

Dr. Mulki stressed Jordan's keenness to integrate into the world economy, saying that the Kingdom has already initiated the process of acceding to the World Trade Organisation, initialled a partnership agreement with the EU and concluded free trade agreements with a number of Arab countries.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Halaiqa underlined the importance of the Medpartenariat and said it symbolises the will of the international community towards building strategic alliances.

IAF fails to reach decision on boycott

(Continued from page 1)

different IAF personalities in the last few days have revealed different stands vis-a-vis electoral participation.

Being the Muslim Brotherhood's political arm, the IAF has so far faithfully conformed to the Brotherhood's political guidelines, though maintaining financial and administrative independence. A Muslim Brotherhood leader, however, said in an earlier interview that "it is likely that some members of the front will run independently."

Though Dr. Arabyyat stressed that "the IAF will take collective and not individual actions," divisions started becoming apparent on Friday, when Dr. Mansour reportedly expressed disapproval of the Muslim Brotherhood's decision and stated that "the IAF will participate in the elections, regardless."

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Mansour said, "the boycott is against the interest of the Jordanian people and the development of democratic life (in the Kingdom)."

Saudi editors charged with libel of Mubarak's two sons

CAIRO (AFP) — Two editors and four journalists from a Saudi newspaper group were charged Saturday with allegedly libelling the two sons of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, judicial sources said.

The six face sentences of two years in prison and a $60 fine for "defamation and attacking the (President Mubarak's) family honour," their trial date has not yet been set.

Asharq Al Awsat daily, part of the Saudi publishing group of the same name, published on May 27 an advertisement for its sister weekly Al Jadida containing an article implicating Mr. Mubarak's sons in illegal business dealings.

Qatari paper calls for Arab summit

DOHA (AFP) — A Qatari newspaper which reflects official views called Saturday for an Arab summit to agree a united stand on the Israeli-Arab peace process and a controversial economic summit planned for Doha in November.

"The stalemate in the peace process requires the calling of an extraordinary Arab summit to draw up a united position and avoid friction," Al Raya wrote.

"The Arabs need to redefine their attitude after the failure of Egyptian mediation between Israel and the Palestinians and the controversy over the economic conference," it said.

Qatar has so far resisted strong Arab pressure to scrap plans to host the fourth annual Middle East and North Africa economic conference in Doha in November because Israel has been invited.

Other Arab states, led by Syria, argue that Israel should be kept out in the cold because of the four-month-old crisis in the peace process. The Arab League called on member states to freeze normalisation with Israel in March.

Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have backed Syria's boycott call, diplomats say. Saudi Arabia has also said it will stay away. Egypt, which hosted last year's gathering, has yet to decide.

Palestinian minister in Baghdad discusses possible Arab summit

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A Palestinian minister said here Saturday that he has discussed with Iraqi officials here a possible Arab summit focused on the frozen Middle East peace process.

"We discussed the Palestinian proposal to call an Arab summit in light of Israel's stubbornness and partiality by the U.S. administration, which does not assume its responsibility as a co-sponsor of the peace process," the Palestinian minister of public works, Azzam Al Ahmad, told AFP.

Mr. Ahmad, who spoke after meeting Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Sahhaf, underlined the "need to intensify efforts in order to lift obstacles that prevent the holding of a summit," which the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) called for last week.

The Palestinian appeal for a summit has received a lukewarm response in the Arab World, with many leaders saying the timing is not right.

Iraq, which has been under an international economic embargo since its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, was excluded from the last Arab summit, held in Cairo in June 1996.

Mr. Ahmad said that Iraq has maintained its offer to provide 100,000 barrels of oil as aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which deals with Palestinian refugees and is losing money.

He said that the United Nations has so far refused the offer.

Kuwait predicts better future ties with Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A Kuwaiti diplomat has predicted "positive developments" soon in his country's relations with Sudan which were frozen after the 1990 Iraqi invasion, Sudanese newspapers reported Saturday.

"Sudanese-Kuwaiti relations will witness positive developments with important steps and visits exchanged by senior officials of the two countries taking place in the coming months," Kuwait's Charge d'Affaires Faisal Abdul Aziz Milaifi was quoted by the official Al Anbaa daily as saying.

Mr. Milaifi said his country was the biggest Arab investor in Sudan and that "the coming days will witness a further enhancement" of its economic activities here.

His comments came after the first visit by a Sudanese official to Kuwait since 1990, one of a number of signs of improving Kuwaiti ties with countries it accused of siding with Iraq.

Sudan's foreign minister of state, Mustafa Othman, met Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Ahmad Sabah in his visit which began Tuesday.

Kuwait's Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Ahmad Sabah said last month that normalisation with certain Arab countries "which adopted a pro-Iraqi stance will take place in the near future."

Kuwait has a charge d'affaires in Sudan, but Khartoum's embassy in the Gulf emirate is closed.

As well as Sudan, Kuwait froze relations with Jordan, Yemen and the Palestinians after the invasion.

Last week, Kuwait Airways Corporation resumed flights to Amman and a Kuwaiti academic delegation in Sanaa met Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Egypt's Islamist militants are divided over future violence

CAIRO (AFP) — The exiled leaders of Islamist militant groups in Egypt vowed Saturday to pursue their armed struggle against the government while those imprisoned in the country have called for an end to the fighting.

"We renew our confidence in our imprisoned leaders and rule out that they could put an end to our fighting," said a statement from the Gamaa Islamiya printed in the London-based Al Hayat Arabic newspaper.

"In addition, we reaffirm our will to pursue our jihad (holy war)," it added.

The foreign-based leaders of the other Egyptian Islamist fundamentalist group, Jihad, also said in a statement that it had no intention of entering into a truce with the Egyptian government.

The leaders of Gamaa and Jihad imprisoned in Egypt repeated Wednesday a call to end the violence during the trial of 97 Islamists in a military court in Cairo.

But the new Gamaa statement said the appeals were coerced and that they were "aimed at giving the impression that Gamaa had renounced the jihad and that divisions existed in our ranks."

A total of 1,175 people have been killed since the start of an Islamist anti-government campaign in Egypt in March 1992.

7 wounded in Hebron

(Continued from page 1)

wedding came to pick up the merchandise.

After an argument with the soldiers, the butcher was led away to the nearby Jewish settler compound of Beit Hadassah, along with three other detainees.

"This is collective punishment," said Noah Abu Munshar, who owns a hardware store and was not among those detained. "The army is pushing us further into clashes."

In all, some 50 of the about 300 shops in the downtown area still controlled by Israel were closed by midmorning, and troops continued moving from business to business to shut them down. Some 80 per cent of Hebron has been under Palestinian control since an Israeli troop pullback in January.

Saturday marked the second time this week that Israeli troops ordered Arab shops closed as punishment for Palestinian rioting.

In the West Bank city of Ramallah, Ahmed Qureai, the speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council smiled and watched as demonstrators burned several Israeli flags during a protest march against Jewish settlements. About 1,000 Palestinians from all the different political factions joined in the march Saturday.

"The Palestinian people will never accept any kind of settlement expansion or confiscation...This is what the people want to say to the Israeli government...to all the world," Mr. Qureai said.

In Hebron Friday, more than 150 Palestinians had thrown stones, bottles, firebombs and home-made explosives at Israeli soldiers who responded with rubber bullets, injuring 20 Palestinians. Among the injured was a 12-year-old boy who was partially paralysed by a head injury.

About 500 Jewish settlers and 130,000 Palestinians live in Hebron, the scene of sporadic violence since mid-March when Israel began construction of a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem, the sector the Palestinians claim as a future capital.

Tensions rose in Hebron two weeks ago when a Jewish extremist pasted leaflets on shopdoors showing the Muslim Prophet, Mohammed, as a pig. The leaflets have angered Muslims around the world, and the extremist is awaiting trial.

Yilmaz wins confidence vote

(Continued from page 1)

The new cabinet, approved on June 30 by President Suleyman Demirel, brings together members of Motherland and those of the Democratic Left Party and the centrist Democratic Turkey Party.

Mr. Yilmaz has drawn up an ambitious programme aimed at strengthening Turkey's secular and democratic foundations and cleaning up the state apparatus.

That Mr. Yilmaz was able to put together a coalition at all marks a triumph for Turkey's military, which has been accusing Welfare of threatening the nation's secular traditions.

The military's four-month campaign to secure the resignation last month of Mr. Erbakan, the first Islamist prime minister since the founding of the secular republic in 1923, had paralysed the country and sparked widespread fears of a coup.

The initial trickle of deputies leaving True Path, protesting the alliance with Mr. Erbakan's Welfare Party, became a flood as the military campaign heated up.

Meanwhile, the Turkish military is bidding at the Constitutional Court to shut down Welfare.

On Thursday, it submitted evidence to the Constitutional Court containing information "linking Welfare with outlawed Islamist fundamentalist activities."

The Constitutional Court, Turkey's highest judiciary body, in June launched legal proceedings against Welfare, which has been accused by prosecutors of "bringing the nation to the brink of a civil war and undermining the country's secular regime."

The evidence supplied by the military against Welfare included videos of several leading members of the pro-Islamist party speaking against the secular regime.

Under Turkey's constitution, the high court is authorised to ban parties "inciting hatred among the people and working against the secular regime."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:35 French Programmes
16:05 America's Home Video
16:30 Energy Express
17:15 American Chart Show
18:00 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headline
19:35 Fresh Prince Bel-Air
20:00 ..Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
20:30 National Geographic
21:10 Renegade
22:00 News in English
22:30 One West Waikiki
23:15 Sisters

PRAYER TIMES

04:01 Fajr
05:34(Sunrise) Duha
12:41 Dhuhr
16:22'Asr
19:48 Maghreb
21:21'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295 English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate to active. On Monday, temperatures are expected to drop slightly. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman	19/32
Aqaba	24/38
Deserts	18/36
Jordan Valley	24/38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 31 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Tawfiq Qub'ain	623029
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh	636011
Dr. Hisham Kan'an	790286
Dr. Khaldoun Asfour	699440
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'amneh	250080
Al Quds pharmacy	(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad	985550
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Dept.	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
J. Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Co.	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity	644281/6
Akileh Maternity	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	607071
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital	(02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (52700)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

09:30	Jeddah (RJ)
10:00	Bombay (RJ)
10:20	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:25	Beirut (RJ)
10:45	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:45	Larnaca (RJ)
11:00	Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
17:05	Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)
17:40	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:05	Paris (RJ)
18:50	London (RJ)
19:10	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:10	Athens (RJ)
20:10	Chicago, Detroit, Amsterdam (RJ)
20:20	Tunis (RJ)
20:40	Vienna (RJ)
20:40	Rome (RJ)
23:55	Frankfurt, Amsterdam (RJ)
00:45	Beirut (add) (RJ)
01:05	Cairo (RJ)
02:10	Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)

Other Flights

12:00	Sanaa (IY)
12:00	Jeddah (SV)
13:35	Bahrain (GF)
15:20	Moscow (SU)
19:50	Tel Aviv (LY)
20:40	London (BA)
21:00	Cairo (MS)
21:10	Beirut (ME)
23:20	Istanbul (TK)
01:20	Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:00	Madrid (RJ)
06:45	Beirut (RJ)
07:30	Larnaca (RJ)
11:30	Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00	Tunis (RJ)
12:15	Vienna (RJ)
12:30	Rome (RJ)
13:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:20	Athens (RJ)
13:25	London (RJ)
19:30	Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
21:00	New Delhi (RJ)
21:10	Cairo (RJ)
21:20	Beirut (RJ)
21:25	Jeddah (RJ)
22:00	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30	Damascus (RJ)
22:40	Bangkok (RJ)
23:45	Sanaa (RJ)
01:15	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights

07:00	Beirut (ME)
07:55	London (BA)
13:00	Sanaa (IY)
13:30	Jeddah SV)
14:25	Doha (GF)
16:35	Moscow (SU)
21:10	Tel Aviv (LY)
22:00	Cairo (MS)
02:30	Amsterdam (KL)
06:15	Istanbul (TK)

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Home N

Premier me

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Israeli embassy to

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Environmen

...by Nadia Mukhlis ...ecial to the Jordan Times

...MAN — The Direc... ...of Environment ...Muslim delegation ...mbark today on a ...ek visit to the ...ngdom of Morocco ...The programme, as part of ...Jordan agreement ...ation between Jordan and ...Morocco on health and ...environmental policy, ...cludes a visit to Director of ...FOE Media Committee ...Nejjar ...The agreement was ...ned on January in Jordan ...Minister for Public ...ks and Environment of ...Morocco Ilias Braghetto, the ...Minister of Municipal ...and Rural Affairs Abdul ...Fattouhat and FOE ...Jamil Ra'ouf Dabbas. ...The agreement stipulates ...exchanges for fifteen ...Moroccans to spend two ...weeks in Veneto, where ...they will meet Italian stu... ...in order to exchange ...environmental ideas, poli... ...and experiences, Ms. ...Dabbas explained. ...Fifteen were chosen ...from a pool of students ...with an environmental ...education and who

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WHAT'S

LECTURE

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FILM

...ening Leve-toi" at the Frenc... ...Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh at 8:3...

EXHIBITIONS

...Artworks by Salam Kan'an entitle... ..."Jerusalem to Nablus" at th... ...Art River Designs showroom ...Amman, until July 15 (Te...

Jordan Tim

#69

Premier meets with EU commissioner

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday stated that Jordan is hoping to receive support and help from the European Union (EU) in implementing a projected social security package.

This package is directed to help the indigent and construct infrastructure projects in underdeveloped regions of the Kingdom, he explained.

In a meeting with EU Commissioner Christos Papoutsis, currently on a four-day visit to Jordan, Dr. Majali stated his hope that the EU will encourage investments to Jordan.

The government has recently adopted measures to remove any investment obstacles and create an opportune investment climate, he added.

The premier also encouraged cooperation between the EU and the Kingdom in the fields of water projects, small and medium-size industries and tourism.

The EU commissioner arrived in Amman Friday for talks with Jordanian officials. He is participating in a Euro-Mediterranean conference on enhancing economic cooperation between countries of the Mediterranean region and the European Union.

Dr. Majali highlighted Jordan's role in the Middle East peace process and underlined the economic importance of the process for the future aspirations of the region.

The Middle East looks to Europe for assistance in overcoming economic difficulties, he said.

According to Mr. Papoutsis, the European Union considers Jordan a basic element in the peace process and is ready to support the Kingdom.

Jordanian and European private sector cooperation is an important issue for Europe as well, he concluded.

Israeli embassy to process visas through travel agencies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Israeli embassy in Amman will receive applications for tourist visas to Israel and the occupied territories through four Jordanian tourist and travel agencies instead of through individual applicants, according to Minister of Foreign Affairs Fayez Tarawneh.

In a regular Cabinet session, Dr. Tarawneh stated that the embassy took the decision to mitigate long queues of people waiting to apply for visas to visit friends and relatives in Palestinian territories.

A fee of JD 4 for each application will be collected and travel agencies will forward the applications to the embassy for processing, he added.

Israeli Ambassador to Jordan Oded Eran has promised that the entire process of visa application and approval will not take over a week to complete, according to Dr. Tarawneh.

The move followed applicants' complaints of standing in long queues to apply for visas as well complaints from residents near the embassy regarding inconveniences as a result of the congestion around the embassy premises.

Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hani Mulki briefed the meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, on meetings with World Trade Organisation (WTO) representatives in the course of negotiating Jordan's potential membership to the organisation.

Dr. Mulki described the meetings as positive, as all documents submitted by Jordan were promptly approved, and the delegation has been asked to prepare for a second round of negotiations for early next year.

Minister of Education and Higher Education Munther Masri briefed the Cabinet on ministry preparations to facilitate the work of teams from Oman and Qatar in selecting Jordanian teachers to be seconded for work in the two Gulf countries.

The Cabinet formed Jordan's delegation to attend a technical meeting to be held with the World Bank in late July in Washington DC.

The delegation will group representatives from the ministries of planning and water and irrigation to discuss priorities for water and sewage projects in Jordan.

The Cabinet also effected a 50 per cent reduction on fees charged for the loading and unloading of goods on vessels.

The reduction does not cover empty containers, bulk goods and goods exported in implementation of special agreements with other countries.

The Cabinet retired Dr. Amin Qarraeen, director general of the Department of Meteorology as of August 1, and also terminated the services of Mohammad Amaireh, advisor at the Prime Ministry.

The Cabinet retired a number of civil servants employed by the Civil Aviation Authority, and the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

Environmental delegation to visit Italy

By Nadia Mukhlis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first Friends of Environment (FOE) student delegation is to embark today on a two-week visit to the Veneto region of northern Italy.

The trip comes as part of a bilateral agreement signed between Jordan and Italy to foster socio-cultural exchanges on health and environmental policy, according to Director of the FOE Media Committee Rana Naber.

The agreement was signed in January in Jordan by Minister for Public Health and Environment of Veneto Iles Braghetto, the then-Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Abdul Razak Tubeishat and FOE President Ra'ouf Dabbas.

The agreement stipulates scholarships for fifteen students to spend two weeks in Veneto, where they will meet Italian students in order to exchange environmental ideas, policies and experiences, Ms. Naber explained.

The fifteen were chosen from a pool of students who won an environmental competition and who demonstrated outstanding results in projects which aimed at solving existing environmental problems in their areas of residence, she asserted.

The contract represents a "valid instrument to exchange experiences and know-how on environmental issues, especially water and air pollution," Prof. Braghetto stated in an interview last January during the signing ceremony.

Veneto can provide Jordan with almost twenty years of experience in environmental legislation and regulations, Prof. Braghetto explained earlier this year.

The delegation has agreed to file feasibility studies, reports and regulations for the protection of the environment [in such manner as was] successfully implemented in Veneto, Ms. Naber said.

Prof. Braghetto described the contract as promoting environmental protection and conservation in order to improve the quality of life in local communities and emphasise the global environmental threat as a direct consequence of modernisation and industrialisation processes.

"In order to develop in such a manner as to ensure that economic growth is not achieved at the expense of the environment, but proceeds hand-in-hand with nature conservation, governments, non-governmental organisations and citizens must promote awareness and information campaigns, educate younger generations, develop adequate technologies and encourage exchanges of knowledge as well as provide a legislative frame for environmental protection," he stated.

FOE has also concluded an agreement with the U.S.-based Globe programme, in which more than 40 countries currently participate, connecting students via the Internet and affording them the opportunity to exchange views on environment, Mr. Dabbas said. They are also allowed direct access to scientists from the U.S.-based NASA and other top agencies operating in similar fields, he added.

With the help of the private sector and acting upon studies made by a group of students who participated in the third environment school competition, the society has built the first operational Bio Gas plant in Dhleil in which the excess by-product of methane gas will be used for illumination and cooking purposes at the site, Ms. Naber explained.

Over 500 students, ranging between 14 and 16 years of age from over 250 schools, participated in the competition, she added. They hailed from public, private and military schools from all over the Kingdom.

FOE is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organisation whose founders are citizens interested in implementing environmental community-based development projects.

It was founded in 1994, officially registered in 1995, and its main objectives are encouraging creativity and innovation, utilising natural energy and providing training for young students.

FOE is committed to increasing awareness of the importance of a healthy environment for a healthy planet, Ms. Naber concluded.

King, Queen graduate first Jubilee School class

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Saturday graduated the first class of the Jubilee School in which place the King delivered the commencement address.

According to a Royal Court statement, the King expressed his thanks to all those who participated in transforming the dream of the Jubilee School into reality, particularly the Queen who "has worked so hard and so long from the beginning."

He commended the school's educational system which emphasises "dialogue, interaction and debate, distancing itself from rote learning and representing a pioneering educational model for the Kingdom."

Minister of Education and Higher Education Munther Masri, head of the Jubilee School Steering Committee, stated that the Jubilee School, which selects students on a merit scholarship basis, has a centre for excellence in education which cooperates with the Ministry of Education and other educational institutions.

The centre focuses on public and private school teacher training as well as curriculum development for the entire country, he added.

The school provides equitable educational oportunities for outstanding students, with a special emphasis on students from less developed areas of the country, the statement said.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Saturday graduate the first class of the Jubilee School (photo by Yousef Allan)

University and scholastic scholarships and support for these students have been partly funded by local businesses, organisations and individuals.

The Jubilee School Project was first announced in 1977 during Jordan's Silver Jubilee celebrations of King Hussein's accession to the throne.

The project was envisaged as a tribute to His Majesty's development efforts, especially in the field of education, the statement said.

The idea remained a dream until the Noor Al Hussein Fund (NHF) assumed responsibility for the project in 1985.

It was founded 4 years ago as an independent co-educational secondary school for outstanding scholarship students, which emphasises community service, equal opportunity and creative thinking.

The school, temporarily located in a Ministry of Education building, has expanded to include a total student body of 275 students for the 1996/97 scholastic year at its permanent site in Yajouz, the statement said.

In addition to boarding facilities, which will enable the school to welcome a larger number of students from remote areas of the Kingdom as well as students from the rest of the Arab World, the campus will also include a comprehensive library providing students with access to databases worldwide, modern computer and language laboratories, vocational and teacher training centres, a music and drama centre and athletic facilities.

Defence demands Dakamseh's acquittal

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN— The defence, in the case of Cpl. Ahmad Dakamseh, the Jordanian soldier accused of killing seven Israeli schoolgirls in March, requested that his client be acquitted of premeditated murder.

During his three-hour closing argument, Atty. Hussein Mjali argued against evidence submitted by Military Prosecutor Lt. Colonel Muhanad Hijazi last week and asked the court to consider such as invalid.

According to Mr. Mjali, his client is suffering from a "mental disorder" which nullifies any responsibility for acts committed.

"My client is innocent of the charge of premeditated murder levelled against him," he stated. "He is not responsible [for the events in Baqoura] due to the mental illness from which he suffers."

"The elements of which a premeditated crime is composed do not exist," Mr. Mjali concluded in his 220-page summary.

He told the court that the psychiatrists who examined the defendant confirmed that Cpl. Dakamseh suffers from "mental illness which incapacitates his control over acts and deeds."

"The Jordanian judiciary stipulates that mental illness nullifies any responsibility of deeds committed by said person... and it also exempts him from punishment," Atty. Majali stated.

"If such a person commits a crime, he is unable to realise what the act signifies," he added.

The law maintains that a person who commits a premeditated crime be in a state of quiet and calm before and during the act, he declared.

"The mental state from which my client is suffering is such that he is unable to understand and value the consequences of his deeds," Atty. Mjali asserted. "He is unable to differentiate between right and wrong."

"[Court] psychiatrists have proven that my defendant suffers from an anti-social personality disorder...and Article 24 of the Jordanian Penal Code stipulates that nobody be tried if his act was committed without full mental faculties as was the case with Ahmad Dakamseh," Mr. Mjali said.

"A premeditated crime requires that the perpetrator be quiet, calm and in control," he added. "There is no premeditation in a person who commits a crime in a fit of anger."

According to Mr. Mjali, his client was provoked to violence by Israeli girls as he was performing his noon prayer.

Mr. Mjali argued against all evidence submitted by the military prosecutor and called upon the court to discard such.

He accused the military of torturing Cpl. Dakamseh by depriving him of sleep, injecting him with illegal substances, and beating him.

Mr. Mjali rejected testimony of Israeli witnesses in the case as "[they did not] take an oath."

He also rejected a report by a military psychiatrist who, he said, did not take a necessary oath before commencing his duties.

Contrary to Jordanian Law which stipulates that the prosecutor be the first person to interrogate a given suspect, "many security agencies interrogated Mr. Dakamseh using illegal methods," Mr. Mjali argued.

"A fair trial should be preceded by a fair and honest interrogation — however, in this case, the interrogation was neither fair nor honest," he said.

Mr. Mjali accused interrogators of forging investigative reports to "suit their own ends" as he did military prosecutors of hiding some evidence that, he felt, would support the defendant's case.

He also described a "war against Zionism which murders us and occupies our land."

The Atty. Mjali had previously touched upon recent events in the West Bank, which he described as insults to Islam.

Presiding Court Justice Brigadier Ma'moun Khasawneh declared these political happenings as irrelevant to the case and ordered them struck from the record.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURE

"Wadi Eth-themed Excavation and Survey" by Michele Daviau and Andrew Dearman, at the American Center of Oriental Research (Tel. 846117) at 7:00 p.m.

FILM

"Espion Leve-toi" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh at 8:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

"Art works by Salam Kan'an entitled "From Jerusalem to Nablus", at the Jordan River Designs showroom, Jabal Amman, until July 15. (Tel. 641308).

"Photo exhibition entitled "Jerusalem in Danger" by Khalid Al Zaghari at the Modern Educational School, Khalda, until July 31.

"Photography exhibition by Jan Kassay, at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until July 29.

"Paintings by Ali Al Ghoul at Greater Amman Municipality Cultural Department, Ras Al 'Ain, until July 31.

"Silver Jewelry exhibition" at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, until July 20.

"Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition," showing works of 60 Arab artists, at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh until July 24.

Jordan Times facsimile #696183

Speaker invited to Austria

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saad Hayel Srour will today begin a visit to Austria upon official invitation to discuss parliamentary, political and economic issues.

Subjects pertaining to developments in the Middle East, such as the peace process, Arab-European cooperation, Austria's positive contribution to the region as well as that of Europe are also on the agenda, he added.

Mr. Srour expressed optimism that the visit would enhance Jordanian-Austrian parliamentary relations and Arab-European parliamentary cooperation.

Austria and Jordan are bound by common interests regarding the environment and Austria's balanced and moderate stand on the Palestinian cause, he stated.

The two countries are linked by an economic and industrial cooperation treaty, signed in 1977, according to the speaker.

Jordan imports food, medicine and heavy machinery from Austria.

HUDC awards housing tender to local firm

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) Saturday awarded a JD 200,000 tender to a local construction firm to build the infrastructure for the Um Qais housing project in the governorate of Irbid.

HUDC Director General Yousef Hiyasat, who signed the contract with the firm's general manager, affirmed that this second phase of the project entails laying roads, electricity and telephone networks for 99 plots of land to be sold to beneficiaries at a later date.

The housing project is to be constructed on 60 dunums of land and infrastructure work will be completed in approximately one year, he stated.

The firm will also install public gardens, a parking lot and retaining walls around the individual plots, according to Mr. Hiyasat.

The first phase of the housing estate, implemented in 1987, entailed the distribution of land to the former residents of Um Qais village.

They were moved from the area as it contained historical and archaeological sites undergoing restoration and preservation, Mr. Hiyasat said.

In the first phase of the project, homes were built on 150 plots of land at the cost of JD 1,179,026.

Mr. Hiyasat stated that the HUDC has heretofore implemented eight housing estates in the Irbid governorate, comprised of 1,806 housing units.

Two more estates are to be constructed in the same governorate, he added.

Beneficiaries should be citizens of the Kingdom and not have benefited from any previous housing project, Mr. Hiyasat maintained.

They should also be able to prove that they do not own any land upon which they might suitably build a home, he concluded.

Jordan to participate in adult education conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will participate in the meetings of the fifth international conference on adult education which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is coordinating in Hamburg, Germany from July 14 to 18, a Ministry of Education statement said.

An official delegation comprising representatives of various ministries as well as other governmental and public organisations will represent Jordan in the conference, it added.

This conference underlines global interest in adult education programmes in view of the 21st century's challenges, according to Chairman of the Delegation and Director General of Education at the Ministry of Education Dr. Mahmoud Massad.

The conference will work to achieve an international commitment to adult education and continuing education programmes and will enable participants to exchange expertise and enhance international cooperation, he added.

This conference will also work to establish recommendations for future priorities, adopt an international declaration on adult education and formulate a future action plan, Dr. Massad affirmed.

He explained that five preliminary conferences have preceded this conference in different regions of the world, such as the preliminary conference in the Arab World held in February which led to an Arab declaration on adult education as well as an agenda for future action, the statement said.

Eventually the outcome of these meetings will be collected and examined, underlining common denominators in the shape of an international declaration and a binding working agenda for the future, according to the statement.

The aforementioned regional meetings as well as an upcoming fifth international conference confirm the need for joint public and private action in the field of adult education through implementing common action plans to guarantee programmes, their assessment and enhancement, Dr. Massad concluded.

Kinshasa denies U.N. report of massacres by Kabila forces

KINSHASA (AFP) — Kinshasa Tuesday denied U.N. accusations that the forces of President Laurent Kabila and his allies in eastern ex-Zaire were *mainly responsible* for massacres of thousands of Rwandan refugees.

A U.N. report, written by human rights investigators sent to probe reports of massacres in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, said Mr. Kabila's forces had lured Hutu refugees into camps to be killed.

The report is simply a move "to discredit us," Interior Minister Mwenze Kongolo told AFP Saturday.

"Everything is well-calculated and they believe they've trapped us by holding us responsible for the massacre of the refugees which we didn't carry out," he said.

"The publication of this report is a purely political move that shows that the United Nations is not well-intentioned" towards the Kabila regime, he continued.

The U.N. document said that since a preliminary report issued in April, "the number of allegations received concerning massacres and mass grave sites has quadrupled."

"Such crimes seem to be sufficiently massive and systematic to be characterised as crimes against humanity."

The mission, led by Chilean human rights lawyer Roberto Garreton, based its information on witness reports, including photographs and a video after being barred by Congolese authorities from visiting grave sites in May.

"These violations of international humanitarian law were committed mainly by ADFL, the Banyamulenge and their allies (68.02 per cent of the allegations received)," said the report, referring to Mr. Kabila's former rebel alliance which captured Kinshasa in May.

The report, which covers the period from last September to May, did not provide specific figures on those killed by Mr. Kabila's forces. But "according to the information received, several thousand people were killed, including large numbers of women or children."

Furthermore, "there is no news of some 140,000 refugees."

The report also said that Zairean Armed Forces, Hutu former Rwandan government forces, Tutsi-led Rwandan forces, Burundian soldiers and mercenaries were also involved in massacres to a lesser extent.

One strategem used by the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo/Zaire (ADFL) was to "announce the arrival of humanitarian agencies so that refugees hiding in the forests and listening to the radio will assemble to receive aid; they are then killed or disappear definitively."

The report also expressed concern about the fact that neither the Tutsi Banyamulenge from eastern ex-Zaire and the alliance rebels nor the Hutu former government army of Rwanda took prisoners.

"There is no denying that ethnic massacres were committed and that the victims were mostly Hutus from Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire. The joint mission's preliminary option is that some of these alleged massacres could constitute acts of genocide."

However, the report noted that further on-site investigations would be required to clarify whether the massacres qualified as genocide. U.N. chief Kofi Annan last week decided to send his own investigation to Congo to probe the massacre reports, after Mr. Kabila's government refused to accept Mr. Garreton as the team leader.

The report said that the alliance's eight-month denial of access to humanitarian agencies and investigators "prompts the suspicion that it is a more subtle but no less effective tactic aimed at eliminating the Rwandan refugees."

It noted that according to Mr. Kabila's forces, "most of the refugees are persons guilty of genocide" as members of the former government forces.

Mr. Kongolo said Saturday that Kinshasa was determined to welcome a new U.N. mission. "We are keeping our word. The U.N. must keep theirs by sending a new investigating team," the minister said.

More than one million Hutu Rwandans fled to eastern Zaire during the 1994 civil war.



Bolivian soldiers touch and observe the head of Argentine-Cuban guerrilla leader, Ernesto 'Che' Guevara, as he lies dead on the laundry room sink of the Vallegrande Hospital, placed there for the public to see after his capture and execution by the army in the south Bolivian mountains, in this file photo taken on Oct. 9, 1967. The alleged bones of Guevara and six of his followers, exhumed on July 5 in Vallegrande after a 19-month search for their grave, will soon be repatriated to Cuba once their identities are officially confirmed by a team of anthropologists assigned to the case (Reuter photo)

Cuba: Che Guevara's bones identified

HAVANA (R) — The Cuban government said early Saturday that a skeleton unearthed from a Bolivian mass grave a week ago has been identified as the last remains of the legendary leftist guerrilla Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

A government statement published by the ruling Communist Party newspaper Granma said Guevara's remains, along with those of three Cuban guerrilla comrades unearthed from the same spot by a team of Latin American experts, would be returned "shortly" to Cuba.

It did not indicate exactly when this might be.

The Argentine-born Guevara, one of Cuba's most revered heroes, was captured and shot in October 1967 while leading a small guerrilla uprising in the jungles of Bolivia.

Guevara, who served as President Fidel Castro's right-hand man during the rebel struggle that brought Mr. Castro to power in 1959, became an icon for a generation of leftists around the world.

The Granma statement, brief and solemn in tone, said the remains of Guevara and the three Cuban guerrillas would be received at a simple military ceremony at San Antonio De Los Banos Airforce Base south of Havana.

It said the families of the dead guerrillas would attend the ceremony, along with representatives of the Communist Party, government and grass-roots organisations.

Guevara's closest surviving family are his Cuban widow Aleida March and four children, Aleyda, Camilo, Celia and Ernesto.

The statement said the guerrillas' remains would then be housed temporarily at the Armed Forces (Defence) Ministry in Havana.

They would be taken to a final resting place in a mausoleum to be built specially for the purpose in the square named after Guevara in the central town of Santa Clara, the statement said.

In October, Cubans would gather in Santa Clara to pay tribute to Guevara, to "his worthy life and his example," said the statement.

Santa Clara was the scene of a decisive battle led by Guevara during the rebel struggle to topple former dictator Fulgencio Batista.

The Granma statement said that all seven sets of remains unearthed last week from the common grave near Vallegrande, a village 775 kilometres southeast of La Paz, had been identified.

It named the guerrillas as Guevara, Cubans Alberto Fernandez Montes De Oca, Rene Martinez Tamayo and Orlando Pantoja Tamayo, Bolivians Anicelo Reinaga and Simon Cuba and Peruvian Juan Pablo Chang.

A Cuban forensic expert, Jorge Gonzalez, said late Friday he was "1,000 per cent certain" that Guevara's remains had been found.

Mr. Gonzalez and his colleagues had suspected from the outset they had Che's bones after finding a handless skeleton among seven unearthed in the mass grave. The Bolivian troops who executed Guevara cut off his hands.

The return of the remains will come in a year that Cuba has officially tagged the "Year Of The 30th Anniversary Of The Fall In Battle Of The Heroic Guerrilla And His Comrades."

To this day, Cuban child "pioneers" vow that they will "be like Che." A giant image of his face adorns the walls of a building overlooking Havana's Revolution Square, whose centrepiece is a memorial to independence hero Jose Marti.

Bolivia began the quest for Guevara's bones in December 1995, after retired General Mario Vargas Salinas broke two decades of military silence to say he could identify the spot where he ordered the burial of the guerrillas. The search was repeatedly halted and resumed.

2,000 attend funeral of Japanese landslide victims

TOKYO (AFP) — 2,000 people attend funeral Saturday of tims of a landsli gered by torrent sweeping Japan, loc cials said.

Survivors and rel the victims placed in front of the coff temporary funeral h the landslide site in Kagoshima prefectu southern Japan, the cials said.

"I don't know ho press my sad feelin survivor wearing a mourning dress told Broadcasting Corp. (NH

"I don't know why the mud and rocks were washed in that direction," she said through tears.

Thousands of tonnes of mud and rock loosened by torrential rain engulfed homes in the area Thursday, killing at least 21 people and injuring 14 others.

Rescuers found the bodies of two children Friday as some 1,300 rescuers, including 340 troops, deployed amid increased risk of new landslides in heavy rain.

Izumi Mayor Yano Katsumi led the mourners at the hall, where a dozen Buddhist priests recited a Sutra before an altar decorated with hundreds of white chrysanthemums.

Also attending were Kumamoto Governor Tatsuo Suga and National Land Agency Chief Kosuke Ito, who leads the investigation into the cause of the landslide, prefecrural officials said.

Another landslide in central Japan Thursday killed a 56-year-old construction worker, while three other people were injured in central and southwestern Japan, police said.

Landslides occurred at 490 locations nationwide, and three bridges were washed out, the National Police Department said. Some 40 houses were destroyed while a railway and two levees were also damaged. More than 1,020 houses were flooded.

More than 1,000 millimetres of rain had been recorded near the site of the Kagoshima disaster since Monday.

The Meteorological Agency warned Saturday there could be more torrential rain in western and southwestern Japan.

An active seasonal rain front, which was in central Japan before Saturday morning, is expected to move south, causing rainfall of between 30 millimetres and 50 millimetres an hour in southwestern Japan toward Sunday, the agency said.



Policemen (in black shirts) rescue an elderly woman from flood water on in the south western Polish town of Opole after the area had been flooded with a six metre wave which submerged flats to the second floor. Torrential rain over the last week caused floods in southern Poland inundating 3,500 square kilometres or one per cent of Poland (Reuter photo)

Floods kill 23 in Poland, swamp cities

WARSAW (R) — Six days of flooding have killed 23 people in Poland, inundated thousands of square kilometres including major towns and may have caused enough damage to affect the pending election campaign.

There was a merciful letup of rain Friday after five days of downpours. But the drama was far from over.

Graphic televised images of some of 18,000 suffering evacuees forced to quit their homes eclipsed even a visit by U.S. President Bill Clinton and the government hunted for scarce budget funds to help the victims rebuild.

"There are 365,000 hectares, or about 3,500 square kilometres under water, not exceeding one per cent of the whole country," Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz said on public radio.

The six-day floods had killed at least 23 people, a National Flood Crisis Committee spokesman told Reuters.

The youngest victim was a year-old boy whose mother drove her car into a deep flooded hole. She survived.

Sun returned to the skies over southern Poland, but a swell of high water advancing north along the Odra River swamped districts of Opole, with 40,000 people, and bore down relentlessly on the southwestern city of Wroclaw.

Gazeta Wyborcza daily said officials had considered breaching embankments below Wroclaw, flooding villages, to disperse some waters before they hit the city itself.

The floods could hurt the main ruling Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) party of former Communists, facing a close fight against rightists grouped round the Solidarity Trade Union in parliamentary elections on Sept. 21.

Opposition critics accused the government of weak relief efforts, comparing them unfavourably with anti-flood operations in the nearby Czech Republic to provide funds, rescuers and protection against looting there.

"Unfortunately many people are playing politics in these circumstances," Mr. Cimoszewicz said, arguing that everything possible had been done in such unpredictable circumstances.

The government decided Thursday to squeeze 500 million zlotys ($156.2 million) from budget reserves to help a long-term recovery plan now being drafted to help rebuild flood-hit homes, roads and 160 damaged bridges.

U.S. defence chief backs Ukraine reform

KIEV (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen met Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma Saturday and said Washington was ready to help the young East European democracy reform and improve its military.

Mr. Cohen told reporters after the talks that he had expressed gratitude from the United States and NATO for Mr. Kuchma's attempts to form a free-market economy and for last year's final transfer of all Soviet-era nuclear warheads back to Russia from Ukraine.

"We hope to help the Ukraine military to reform, to prepare itself for the future, and we will cooperate in every way we can to make that possible," Mr. Cohen said in response to questions.

He noted that Kiev had made "significant cuts" in defence spending in recent years and needed to spend more on military modernisation.

The secretary was not specific on any possible further aid from Washington. Ukraine is the third largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid behind Israel and Egypt.

Mr. Cohen was also having talks Saturday with Ukrainian Defence Minister Olexander Kuzmuk and was to travel to Bulgaria later in the day on the final leg of a week-long trip to improve ties with ex-Communist states.

The Cohen-Kuchma meeting came only the days after Mr. Kuchma and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) leaders signed a new partnership charter at a Western alliance summit meeting in Madrid.

The agreement will accord the former Soviet republic the right to call for consultations with NATO if it feels threatened from abroad.

"During the 45-minute meeting, I congratulated the president for signing the NATO-Ukraine Charter," Mr. Cohen said. "In addition, I praised Ukraine for the example it set in resolving longstanding issues with its neighbours.

"This is just another example of Ukraine's commitment to peace and stability in Europe."

Ukraine recently settled a major dispute with Russia over the Black Sea Fleet based in Ukraine.

Scientists celebrate Pathfinder's week on Mars

PASADENA (R) — The Mars Pathfinder mission hit a fresh snag Friday, but that did not stop scientists from celebrating the first week's historic exploration of the red planet.

Mission Manager Richard Cook said a miscue in communications between Earth and the spacecraft caused the star of the show, the little buggy Sojourner, to remain stuck up against a rock following Thursday's fender-bender.

Mr. Cook said the rover failed to receive its new instructions because mission controllers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory here turned on Pathfinder's receiver 11 minutes after commands were sent via the deep space network.

During the fender-bender incident, the Sojourner backed into the rock dubbed "Yogi" too fast and one of its rear wheels rode up onto the rock's surface.

Scientists want it to drive away from "Yogi," and then reposition itself against the rock and analyse it with its Alpha Proton X-ray spectrometer.

Those instructions would be sent later Friday, said Mr. Cook, who called the communications glitch "a minor thing and nothing to worry about."

"We just didn't get as much accomplished as we would have liked. As the team joked on the seventh day we decided to rest," Mr. cook said.

Image scientists Friday displayed a magnificent three-dimensional "Monster Pan" — a 180-degree panorama of the Martian landscape stretching from the lander to the horizon. Journalists attending the press briefing wore special glasses to view the scene.

Mr. Cook said the photograph would be topped next week when NASA shows off its Mars "Gallery Pan," a 360-degree panoramic view of the Martian surface.

The rover will finish its primary mission Saturday but Pathfinder Project Director Tony Spear announced that NASA had given the team funding to extend the mission for one year.

Geologist Larry Soderblom of the United States Geological Survey said the Pathfinder landing site was a geologist's dream because the winds on Mars were scouring the red Martian soil, pushing it into the subsurface and revealing the ancient Martian rocks that could contain evidence of early, primitive life.

"The Martian sands of time are being drawn back," he said.

Norman Haynes, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's director of Mars projects, said the Pathfinder team had accomplished four major goals.

They had proved that the new policy of "faster, better, cheaper" worked, taking Pathfinder to Mars and operating it there for slightly less than the allotted budget of $196 million, a fraction of the cost of previous space missions.

They also proved that an alternative landing mechanism for Mars, giant airbags, worked, they demonstrated that roving vehicles could operate on Mars — an essential for future manned exploration — and they returned a huge amount of scientific data that came as an added bonus because the flight was essentially an engineering exercise to prove that all the systems worked.

Mr. Haynes said he expected a manned expedition to Mars in the second decade of the 21st century, following four more unmanned landing and five orbiting spacecraft scheduled to visit the red planet between now and 2005.

"This really has been a fantastic week. I have to keep slapping myself to prove I'm not dreaming," said project scientist Matthew Golombek, a NASA geologist in charge of the Mars Pathfinder's scientific mission.

The Pathfinder lander hit the surface of the red planet with a thump last Friday. Since then it has thrilled scientists and the public by providing a wealth of scientific information and stunning pictures sent back by the rover and the landing craft.

The Pathfinder has amassed a number of space firsts. It was first to deploy a parachute at supersonic speeds of 1,000 mph (1,609 kph), first to use airbags to cushion its landing and to use a self-righting craft that signalled back to Earth it had arrived just three minutes after touch-down.

In the past week the rover has analysed a Martian rock that showed the red planet to be a solar twin of Earth.

Bangladesh flood toll reaches 36

CHITTAGONG (R) — Floods sweeping large parts of Bangladesh have killed at least 36 people and made a quarter of a million others homeless, officials said Saturday.

They said at least half a million people were marooned in their half-submerged homes as the floods gripped 19 out of the country's 64 administrative districts. Worst hit were 10 districts in the southeast, including Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and the Chittagong hill tracts, where all the deaths occurred.

The victims died in landslides, house collapses and by drowning. At least 100 people were injured, local officials and police said Saturday. Unofficial sources Saturday put the death toll at more than 50. A mild tremor also jolted Chittagong Port City and nearby areas Friday night, but its strength and epicentre were not known because the country's only seismological observatory was closed.

"We felt the rockings twice while the city was being pounded by torrential rain. They lasted for five or ten seconds and there was no report of damage," one Chittagong official said.

Weather officials said the floods could spread further and death counts could go up with more rains expected in next few days.

Heavy showers Saturday disrupted life in the Bangladesh capital Dhaka, a city of nine million people, many of whom live in slums. Low areas on the city's outskirts have been inundated, witnesses said.

More than 50,000 people have been shifted to flood shelters and many more moved to higher ground on their own, officials said.

Road links between Chittagong and neighbouring districts, including Cox's Bazar, have become impassable as floodwater washed away several small bridges and partly inundated highways.



Rescuers cover victims killed in a fire that raged through the 16-storey Royal Jomtien Resort Hotel in the Thai resort town of Pattaya Friday. The worst-ever hotel fire in Thailand has killed at least 84 people including five Westerners, and the death toll could rise as high as 100, police said (Reuter photo)

Thai hotel fire death toll rises to 84

THAILAND (R) — Rescue workers found four more victims of Thailand's worst hotel fire in the badly-damaged Royal Jomtien Resort Hotel Saturday, raising the death toll in the tragedy to 84.

They said bodies of three hotel employees were found trapped inside an elevator forced open by rescue workers more than a day after the fire broke out at the 400-room beachfront hotel.

The body of a fourth employee was found on the third floor clutching a walkie-talkie.

Rescue workers at the hotel in the resort town of Pattaya, about 200 kilometres southeast of Bangkok, said the rescue effort was continuing and that the death toll could rise.

American Rochelle Stein Salmi, 49, whose dramatic escape from the hotel rooftop after being hoisted up from her room was broadcast on television, told reporters she was lucky to have been able to open her 15th floor window.

Mrs. Salmi and her seven-year-old daughter Rebecca clambered out of their smoke-filled room dangling on safety ropes lowered by rescue workers who then hauled them up to the roof.

"I am the lucky one to get out. So many people died and this is terrible to look at. I was at the very top floor and one thing that saved me was I could open my window. We got fresh air from the ocean which blew the smoke away," she told reporters, fighting to control her emotion.

"We were lifted out by helicopter. I think the whole world saw it because my mother and all my relatives in the United States saw it," she said. Police helicopters were able to pluck a handful of people from the rooftop.

Among the dead were a one-month-old infant girl and a one-year-old boy staying on the 11th floor. Rescue workers said many victims were burned beyond recognition.

Witnesses said a young Korean woman jumped off from a mid-level window to her death at the height of the fire.

Police said some 70 people were injured, three of them listed in critical condition, after a cooking gas explosion in the hotel's ground-floor cafeteria triggered the fire that spread quickly to its upper levels.

"The sprinkler system did not work," Mrs. Salmi said. "The smoke alarm did not work. Nobody, nobody told us anything. No yelling about fire, nothing. And that is not right. I think they should have done something to let people know.

"I think I did the right thing. To stay in the room with wet towels over our faces. We put wet towels under the door but the smoke was so heavy. I was talking by the hand phone the whole time with my friend. I did everything I could and when the rescue came finally, I just collapsed."

Officials of the Tourist Authority of Thailand said about five Thais, mostly staff of the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) which had been holding a seminar at the 16-storey hotel, were still listed as missing. They said the current death toll of 10 foreigners, including six Hungarians, three Koreans and a Belgian, may not rise although one Hungarian was still unaccounted for. Rescue workers said an earlier death toll of 81 had included the Hungarian who was presumed dead but was officially listed as missing.

Rescue workers said about 20 bodies, mostly Thais, were found lying inside a locked exit on the second floor of the hotel. They said about 30 hotel employees were killed while four of the victims died in hospital. They said most of the victims died from suffocation after their escape was blocked by locked exit doors.

Rescue workers said they found many exits had been padlocked by the hotel owners, apparently to prevent guests from sneaking out without paying their bills.

"I am overwhelmed to see the destruction. From my room, I could see the fire when it started and the flame from the second-floor balcony. We watched the whole fire from my room," Mrs. Salmi said.

Rescue workers said most fire engines reaching the hotel in the early stages of the fire were equipped with ladders that extended only up to the seventh storey.

Several hundred employees of EGAT and two private companies were attending seminars at the hotel when the disaster started.

Thailand's worst fire disaster was in May 1993 when a blaze swept through a toy factory in Nakhon Pathom, north of Bangkok, killing more than 200 workers.

Hun Sen forces beat back Cambodian opposition

SOR SADAM (R) — Troops under Second Prime Minister Hun Sen were beating back forces loyal to Cambodia's ousted co-premier in fighting in the northwest Saturday.

Reporters with Mr. Hun Sen's government troops said they were advancing along the key highway in the region bordering Thailand, Route 6, exchanging rocket, mortar, artillery and occasional small arms fire with the retreating troops.

Two bridges were completely destroyed along the road, which links the tourist town of Siem Reap, home of the Angkor Wat Temple complex, to the market town of Poipet on the Thai border.

Local people said one of the bridges was destroyed by Mr. Hun Sen's troops to prevent opposition forces, believed to comprise both Khmer Rouge guerrillas and troops loyal to ousted Co-Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, from advancing on Siem Reap.

The second, larger bridge was destroyed by opposition forces as they retreated.

Advancing government troops had two tanks and several score of infantry and the scene was reminiscent of other battles over decades of war in the region, with tanks advancing down the main road and infantry, many barefoot and carrying AK-47 and M-16 rifles, advancing through the rice paddies to either side.

A truck-mounted multiple rocket launcher was firing in the afternoon, its rockets like pin-pricks of light racing towards opposition lines on the west side of the Plang River.

Most of the village of Sor Sadam was deserted after fighting Friday while the village of Plang was being evacuated by civilians on foot and motorcycle east to Siem Reap.

At least two more tanks, two trucks and pick-up trucks full of soldiers were racing towards the frontline from Siem Reap at 1.00 p.m. (0600 GMT).

The fighting was not intense.

Mr. Hun Sen, whose forces ousted the democratically elected Prince Ranariddh during two days of fighting in Phnom Penh last weekend, said Saturday that the war was over as his rivals could not rally people to their cause.

Meanwhile, A senior member of Prince Ranariddh's royalist party said Saturday he was ready to replace him as first prime minister.

Toan Chay, who broke with Prince Ranariddh in April, said he would take the job of first prime minister if the prince's FUNCINPEC party chose him.

"I will be the first prime minister if they (the party) need me to be," he told reporters.

Another leading contender for the job of first prime minister is Co-Defence Minister Tea Chamrath, who has also said he would take the job if the party wished.

Mr. Toan Chay, a former provincial governor, appealed to royalist party members not to flee the country and said those who had left had nothing to fear and should come back.

"We (want) to make people gain hope. Do not fear, do not run out of the country," he said. "Come back to align with the government."

Dozens of FUNCINPEC members and royalist sympathisers fled Cambodia after two days of fighting in the capital last weekend and the arrest and execution of a leading FUNCINPEC official, blamed by Second Prime Minister Hun Sen for causing the fighting.

Prince Ranariddh said his ouster was a coup d'etat and urged the international community not to recognise any regime emerging as a result.

Mr. Hun Sen has denied he staged a coup and said he intended to keep the coalition government in place by allowing FUNCINPEC to name a new first prime minister. He said he had no desire to take the post himself.

Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh formed their coalition government after U.N.-sponsored polls in May 1993.

Political analysts in Phnom Penh said Mr. Hun Sen would remain the real power in government even if a new FUNCINPEC first prime minister was agreed.

Prince Ranariddh has been trying to gather international support since his ouster and has warned of a return to civil war in Cambodia if a political solution could not be reached.

On Thursday, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) suspended the planned inclusion of Cambodia into the seven-member group and said it still recognised Prince Ranariddh as Cambodia's first prime minister.

Mr. Toan Chay, speaking to reporters after a meeting with fellow party members, said he heard he had gained wide support for his candidacy.

He said the party remained united and was ready to work with Mr. Hun Sen.

"We (have) got to work with him, because we are the partners in the government," he said.

Prince Ranariddh had been finished for some time, Mr. Toan Chay said, recalling his dissident party congress on June 1, when his faction voted to expel Prince Ranariddh as party leader.Mr. Toan Chay split from Prince Ranariddh in April because of differences over how the party should be led.

Bosnian Serb leaders protest against NATO raid

SARAJEVO (R) — Stunned Bosnian Serb leaders have protested over the NATO raid against Serb war crimes suspects but the United States said the action would help to reinvigorate peace efforts in Bosnia.

Nationalist Serb leaders said Friday the operation against two suspects was an "irrational action" but stopped short of issuing threats against the NATO-led peace force.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said the unprecedented raid was part of a strategy to shore up the fragile peace agreed in Dayton, Ohio in 1995.

"We basically believe that we have to make an effort to save the Dayton process," Mr. Clinton told reporters on Air Force One enroute to Denmark from Romania.

U.S. and Western diplomats say prosecuting war crimes suspects is a crucial step in building post-war reconciliation and clearing the way for new leaders willing to abide by the peace treaty.

Mr. Clinton insisted the arrest of an indicted war criminal and the shooting of a second suspect in Bosnia's Serb entity Thursday did not represent a drastic change in NATO's mission.

Balkan analysts said the swoop in one bold stroke altered the perception that indicted war criminals would never be brought to justice and that Nationalist authorities could act with impunity.

It came as a shock to the ruling party in Serb territory controlled by one of the most prominent suspects, wartime President Radovan Karadzic.

The two suspects targeted by British soldiers in Prijedor were charged in sealed indictments, a new tool employed by the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal.

Momcilo Krajisnik, a senior Karadzic ally, underlined the concern aroused by the sealed indictments.

"We must complain about the existence of some secret, private lists which are causing unease... There must be no mystery about such lists because that would cause general panic," Mr. Krajisnik told reporters.

Serbs from the northwest Prijedor region held a protest Friday against the operation. Senior political and religious figures were expected to attend a funeral for Simo Drljaca, the former police chief who was shot dead in a gun battle with the British soldiers.

The tribunal charged Drljaca for playing a key role in the systematic expulsions and detention of Muslims and Croats in the Prijedor region.

The NATO action coincided with a power struggle between Karadzic loyalists and Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic, who has accused her opponents of rampant corruption.

Mr. Karadzic's allies said Mr. Plavsic had provoked a crisis which NATO had then exploited.

Patriarch Pavle, the highest authority in the Serbian Orthodox Christian Church, was scheduled to visit Bosnian Serb territory Saturday to help mediate in the dispute.

Russia, which has always displayed sympathy for the Orthodox Serbs, joined Bosnian Serb leaders in criticising the NATO operation.

"Such cowboy raids threaten the whole Dayton peace process, which is in any case going through a difficult period," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

U.S. And Russian soldiers serving in the NATO-led mission Friday turned back a crowd of Bosnian Muslim women who wanted to visit a grave site in Serb-controlled territory.

The women were mourning on the second anniversary of the fall of Srebrenica, when conquering Serb forces led by General Ratko Mladic executed and ambushed thousands of Muslim men.

NATO and U.N. police monitors persuaded the women to visit a grave site in Muslim-Croat Federation territory instead.

This week's raid fuelled speculation that NATO might next go after the most prominent suspects, Mr. Mladic and Mr. Karadzic.

The NATO-led force declined to discuss the possibilty of more arrests in the future.

U.S. Senate does not cut off Bosnian troop funds

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate Friday strongly urged but did not require the United States to pull out its troops from Bosnia by next June 30, giving the White House the flexibility it sought for the peacekeeping mission.

The House has voted to cut off funds for the troops on June 30, 1998, despite Clinton administration arguments that a mandatory date could endanger U.S. troops, jeopardise their mission, and undermine U.S. credibility with its key European allies.

The House and Senate positions will have to be reconciled in a conference.

The nonbinding sense of the Senate amendment, offered by Michigan Democratic Senator Carl Levin, passed on a voice vote on a bipartisan basis. It was part of a $268 billion defence spending bill which the Senate later passed easily on a 94-4 vote.

N. Ireland Orange Order parades after violence

BELFAST (R) — Suspected Republican gunmen shot and wounded five security personnel and two teenagers overnight as Northern Ireland's Protestant Orange Order marched to mark the most hallowed date in its calendar.

The head of Northern Ireland's biggest political group, the pro-British Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), accused the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and its political arm, Sinn Fein, of responsibility for the violence.

"It just underlines the evil intent of Sinn Fein/IRA," David Trimble told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Sinn Fein, which seeks an end of British rule in Northern Ireland, had campaigned for many of Saturday's marches to be scrapped as a concession to the minority Catholic population.

Mr. Trimble said Sinn Fein and Catholics opposed to Protestant marches had failed to match a concession by the Orange Order Friday to ban four of its most contentious parades.

The order scrapped marches in Belfast, Newry and Armagh and rerouted another parade in Londonderry in a landmark decision that ended decades of stubborn refusal to accept objections by Catholics who see such demonstrations as intimidation.

On Saturday the order also called off a parade in Dunloy, 80 kilometres north of Belfast because of a protest by 200 Catholic Nationalists and was considering calling off another in the village of Bellaghy a few kilometres further north.

But elsewhere the Orange Order, founded by Protestants to celebrate their faith and loyalty to Britain, staged hundreds of small parades which were to converge into about 20 big marches.

Behind pipe bands and drums, members of the 80,000-strong Orange Order paraded in Belfast watched by Protestants who began lining the streets from early in the morning to take part in what is supposed to be a yearly family carnival.

The Orange Order decision to ban flashpoint parades because of threats of mass Catholic demonstrations and warnings by police had raised hopes that this year's "Glorious 12th of July" parades would pass off peacefully.

But Republican gunmen were out on the streets late Friday night and injured three soldiers and two police in a carefully planned ambush in North Belfast, firing about 20 shots at the joint patrol and hurling a home-made explosive device.

Cecil Walker, a Belfast member of parliament for the UUP, said the attack was a bitter disappointment after the Orange Order's decision to cancel its contentious parades.

"We were hoping things were going to be better than they were," he told reporters at the scene of the attack.

"But there are obviously elements in the nationalist community who seem to be holding on to mayhem."

The Protestant teenagers, one aged 14 and the other 18, were wounded early Saturday when gunmen, assumed to be Irish Republicans, opened fire as they attended a Belfast bonfire, one of hundreds which burned across the province until dawn.

Security forces said a mortar was fired at a British army helicopter pad in the staunchly Irish nationalist county of Armagh on the border with Ireland but no-one was hurt.

Saturday's festivities commemorate a 1690 Protestant victory over Catholic forces at the Battle of the Boyne and are a considerable irritant to Northern Ireland's Catholic minority.

A decision by police chiefs to allow the Orange Order to march along Portadown's Catholic Garvaghy Road last Sunday sparked several days of the worst violence seen in Northern Ireland for many years.

Slovenia tops list for 2nd wave of NATO enlargement

LJUBLJANA (AFP) — Slovenia tops the list of candidates for the next wave of NATO enlargement into Eastern Europe, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said here Saturday.

But Ms. Albright pressed leaders to deepen economic and political reforms, upgrade their military force and taken on a greater role in stabilising the Balkans to ensure they will gain entry in the defence club.

"While there are no guarantees...there is no stronger candidate than Slovenia for the next round," Ms. Albright told a news conference following meetings with Foreign Minister Zoran Thaler.

Leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Tuesday invited the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary to join in 1999. A bid by Romania and Slovenia for membership was strongly supported by France and other NATO countries but Washington's insistence that only three countries be admitted in the first round carried the day.

Ms. Albright pledged U.S. support to help Slovenia take additional steps towards membership in NATO, saying that the goal of building a united Europe "encompasses Slovenia."

But she stressed that the small mountainous country must take greater responsibility in fostering stability in Southern Europe, saying that membership in NATO should not be viewed as "an escape hatch" from turmoil in the Balkans.

"It is important that country take responsibility for the security of others just as others take responsibility for your security," she said.

At the news conference, Mr. Thaler expressed his government's "disappointment" with the Madrid decision but added that he was satisfied with the explanation he received from the U.S. chief diplomat. "This dialogue shows that the Republic of Slovenia is a partner with the United States," Mr. Thaler said.

Slovenian leaders had argued that their country could provide NATO with a vital land corridor between Italy and Hungary, bolster stability in the Balkans and encourage Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia to follow their example of democratic reform.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: **684311, 699634**
Telex: **21497 ALRAI JO**
Facsimile: **696183**

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Politics beats chivalry

SIMILAR TO the concept of separation of church and state, sports do better when political intrigue is put on the bench. Particularly, here, in the Middle East where the currents of Arab unity admittedly ebb and flow, countries should be capable of dispensing with their squabbles, past and present, for the sake of athletic endeavours.

Take the Pan-Arab Games that opened in Beirut last night. Once again, as in Syria in 1992, Iraqi athletes are being banned from participation. What is to be gained by such a measure? Why should athletics be drawn into the political battlefield of states, especially when they all supposedly belong to one nation, as the case is in the Arab World?

Since the start of sports competitions, it has been the athletes who have been ambassadors of goodwill, striving to achieve their best, but displaying game etiquette when defeated. When the U.S. took the decision to boycott the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980, international sports was at risk of suffering from an unfortunate precedent. Fortunately the repercussions only went as far as the Soviet Union's boycott of the games in Los Angeles four years later. But however competitive, however overenthusiastic the fans, it is in sports that peoples are brought together to compete, to attempt new feats, and to applaud those of their rivals. Dragging politics into the arena is petty.

The threats of Gulf countries to boycott the Pan-Arab Games if Iraqi athletes were allowed to participate speaks poorly of efforts at reconciliation. While the profitability of hosting the event is recognised, these games in particular could serve a much greater purpose if the Arab states would put aside their differences for a few days. These are the games that were postponed by the Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon last year. In fact the stadium where they were to be held was demolished by that savage bombardment. Arab countries pledged to contribute to the rebuilding of the stadium; but to date, only Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and some Arab organisations have actually paid up. A show of unity, both in making good on those pledges and in welcoming one and all from the Arab Nation to the games, would have demonstrated to those who would revel in the games' demise that Arab harmony could be effective indeed. Besides, Lebanon had proudly announced that the games would be open to all. The reneging on that invitation goes against the grain of simple Arab hospitality.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for **Al Dustour** said the 20,000 dunums of state-owned land in the Jordan Valley which the state plans to distribute or sell at nominal price soon should go to the farmers and residents of the valley itself and not to influential people who live in Amman and know nothing about farming. Mohammad Daoud said that during a previous distribution, most of the land went to people who are not interested in farming and growing food crops, which led to protests and created problems that have not yet been settled. The Jordan Valley Authority should not commit the same blunder again by giving land to people who do not concern themselves with food production but are bent on trading in lands and should not deprive the local farmers of the chance to gain additional plots of land to expand their field and increase their output in the nation's interest, said the writer. We are in need of people to work on the land, not of wealthy men who live in Amman and come to the valley only for recreation and to pass the time without carrying out useful and productive work, said the writer. He added that all those who were able to secure for themselves pieces of land through connections and in an unorthodox manner have caused losses to the country since they left the land idle and unproductive. The writer said that priority in land ownership should go to the local farmers who are truly dedicated to developing it and increasing food production.

BAHJAT ABU Gharbieh, a writer for **Al Majd** weekly, reflected on the Jordanian opposition parties and their political programmes, urging them to unite their forces in the face of the executive authority. He said that the National Consitutional Party is backed by the government and it is naturally trying to respond favourably to the government's policies, but the opposition parties should express the masses' views, which conflict with those of the government. Unless the opposition parties unify their stand and adopt an integrated programme vis-à-vis the government; and if they fail to come up with plans to deal with the government-backed National Constitutional Party, they will be isolated and lose any credibility they might have won for themselves, warned the writer. In order to win the masses' support, he said, the opposition groups ought to crystallise and publish a unified programme for combating poverty and unemployment, demand that Jordan cancel the peace treaty with Israel, stop normalisation with the Jewish state, demand that constitutional amendments be introduced to give real independence to the three state authorities and undertake measures to win nationwide support from the masses so that opposition parties' members can be elected in Parliament where they can confront the government's measures that consecrate foreign domination of Jordan.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Jordanian funds abroad are far less than estimated, should not hinder financial aid

COMMENTATORS DIFFER on their estimates of the volume of Jordanian funds based abroad. What is meant here is of course deposits in banks of foreign countries, because other forms of investments, such as real estate and securities, are usually long term, immobile and very difficult to trace and evaluate.

Declared deposits registered in the names of persons with Jordanian passports should not remain subject to sporadic, arbitrary "guesstimates", simply because they are determined and published monthly for all countries of the world in the International Financial Statistics (IFS), issued regularly by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The latest published figure for cross-border bank deposits of Jordanians is around $2 billion only, not the exaggerated estimates of three to ten billion.

The main purpose of inflating the figures of funds held by Jordanians in foreign countries is to give an excuse for failure to support Jordan financially. No wonder that the figure of $6 billion was suggested two years ago by the American ambassador to Jordan in the course of his answering a question about the near absence of American foreign aid to Jordan after signing the peace treaty with Israel.

Commentators do not only differ regarding the size of the private Jordanian funds abroad, they also differ on the reasons which motivate the owners of those funds to shift them outside the country in what is called capital flight. They differ as well on the means by which such expatriated funds could be repatriated. These differences were evident in an article written by the young journalist Mohammad Kheir Farah in the Al Dustour issue of July 7, 1997, and where he quoted three members of the economic team of the present government.

After the argument above, based on published international statistics to the effect that Jordanian private funds invested abroad are much less than claimed, I advance my second argument that the bulk of such funds does not originate in Jordan.

As it is well known, some 300,000 Jordanians are working abroad, either in Gulf states in Europe or elsewhere. These expatriates hold Jordanian passports. They are accompanied by some 500,000 family members, bringing the total to about 800,000, or almost one fifth of the population living in Jordan.

Most of those Jordanian expatriates maintain accounts abroad, as was evidenced by the Jordanian returnees from Kuwait in 1990/1991. The returnees continued to withdraw hundred of millions of dollars from their balances abroad until mid-1993. They created a temporary prosperity in the market which came to an end in 1993, leaving a sort of relative economic slowdown some Jordanians call economic recession.

On the other hand, one should take into account that the majority of the Palestinian population in the West Bank holds either temporary or permanent Jordanian passports which they use when they open accounts abroad. Such funds are unrelated to Jordan, yet they appear on paper as Jordanian funds.

To sum things up, I claim that the funds owned by Jordanian private citizens abroad are much less than estimated and that the bulk of those funds does not originate in the Jordanian economy. They were produced and are owned by expatriates or Palestinians of the West Bank, and the repatriation of such funds, if not impossible, could be extremely difficult because Jordanian banks have to compete with European and American banks in attracting the deposits of non-residents.

Unlike capital flight in other countries, Jordanian funds abroad should not be taken into account when considering the resources available for investment within the country or used to repay debt.

'The first wave of new NATO members may remain the only wave for quite a while'

By Gwynne Dyer

IT WAS crude, but it was true. An open radio mike caught Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation summit in Madrid denouncing the way that U.S. domestic politics distorted the choice of new members. President Clinton couldn't afford more than three ex-Communist countries to join NATO because of the way that American legislators "sell their votes".

"You want me to vote on NATO?" he asked, pretending to be a U.S. senator. "Then you have to build me a bridge in my constituency," he said to Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene — and added that "in your country and my country all the politicians would be in jail" if they behaved like that.

A laughing Dehaene replied that the reason only Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary were invited to join NATO at this time was because there were large Polish, Czech and Hungarian immigrant communities in the United States. He had told the disappointed Romanians, he said, that if they wanted their application to be accepted next time, they should send more immigrants to America.

And that is how business is really conducted at the solemn conclaves of those who rule us. The only surprise is that Chretien and Dehaene forgot there were microphones around — or maybe they were so annoyed at Clinton's chronic lateness (he kept his colleagues waiting 20 minutes, half an hour or more at every event) that they were seduced into one of those accidental-on-purpose "blunders" that let you vent your true feelings.

No matter. The Madrid summit was one more demonstration that NATO is an alliance of one superpower and fifteen smaller countries. If three new members is all that Clinton can get through the U.S. Senate (which must ratify the expansion by a two-thirds majority), then three new members is all the alliance will have, at least for now.

All this should not disguise the fact that something very important is happening in Europe. Two years from now, when the NATO formally absorbs the three new members who were invited to join in Madrid last week, the alliance's eastern frontiers will be close to where the eastern borders of the "Central Powers" — Germany and the Austro-Hungarian empire — ran in 1914. What has been recreated in Madrid is Central Europe.

For half a century after 1945, when the Yalta pact divided Europe down the middle, there was only "Western Europe" (the U.S. zone of influence) and "Eastern Europe" (the Soviet zone of control). But that did not reflect the economic, cultural and historical reality, and it has not long survived the collapse of Soviet power.

The other lost distinction that is now visible once more is the profound gulf between Central Europe and the Balkans. France, Canada, Italy and six other countries backed the admission of Slovenia and Romania as well as the chosen three, but nobody suggested bringing in Serbia, or Albania, or Bulgaria. The Balkans is a different world, where tyranny still clings on and gun-rule and ethnic violence are endemic.

That much is understandable, but Washington even vetoed Romania and Slovenia, countries with sound democratic credentials and more professional military forces than either Hungary or the Czech Republic (where the army has more colonels than privates). And neither the U.S. nor anybody else wanted to deal with the question of NATO membership for Lithuania. Latvia and Estonia, though all three Baltic states certainly qualify for NATO membership in political and economic terms.

The White House's political judgement is that it will be hard enough getting NATO expansion through the Senate with just three new members — and it's probably right, because opposition to NATO expansion in the U.S. elite circles is building fast.

Four months ago George Kennan, the diplomat whose advice shaped America's basic cold war strategy of "containment", warned that "expanding NATO would be the most fateful error of American policy in the entire post-cold war era." Just two weeks ago, 46 ex-senators and other senior members of the U.S. foreign policy establishment wrote Clinton an open letter warning that NATO enlargement would undermine the Democrats who now rule Russia.

Beyond the parochial question of which former Communist countries have large enough immigrant lobbies in the U.S. to command NATO membership, that is the real question. Will NATO expansion really make the Russians do something we will all regret?

Russian politicians have to take a strong stand domestically against NATO's expansion, which brings NATO forces 500 km closer to their own border. "The first lesson of diplomacy is that you don't allow tanks to move towards you," said Gregor Yavlinsky, co-leader of the Yabloko group, "even if the tanks are dressed up in pink with dancing girls on top. I am a Western-oriented politician, but how could I explain this to people?"

But it is largely a symbolic issue, since no serious person thinks that NATO is planning to attack Russia. And it has been solved, at least for the moment, by mostly symbolic means.

At an American-Russian summit in Paris on May 27, Russian President Boris Yeltsin grudgingly accepted NATO's expansion in return for a Russia-NATO Permanent Joint Council that meets every month, Russian membership in the "Group of Seven" major industrialised countries (now the "G-8"), and a better deal on conventional force limits in Europe.

But why risk annoying the Russians at all, when nobody believes that Moscow wants to or could attack westwards anyway? What's the point in bringing these new countries into an alliance whose cold war job of defending against the Soviet threat ended some years ago?

Perhaps it is a mistake, but so far it is not causing truly major problems in Russia, and it does have two huge hidden advantages. The NATO guarantee frees Moscow's former Warsaw Pact satellites from the need to form destabilising secret alliances among themselves in order to contain possible Russian military pressures in the future. And it forces them to settle their own quarrels, in order to be eligible for membership.

NATO, whose existing members are all pledged to defend any NATO ally that is attacked, does not want new members to bring border disputes in with them. The result is that candidates are being forced to settle: last September, for example, long-standing rivals Romania and Hungary signed a pact ending their border disputes and guaranteeing the rights of Romania's Hungarian minority.

A similar dispute about borders and minorities between Hungary and Slovakia was settled last year, and the hope is that even the future prospect of NATO membership will induce other Eastern countries to do the same. The unspoken analogy in everybody's minds is Greece and Turkey, who would certainly have gone to war at least once in the past thirty years if they were not both NATO members.

After the summit, President Clinton, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Defence Secretary William Cohen fanned out across Central and Eastern Europe to welcome the new members and offer the rejected candidates hope of future acceptance. They all said, in not quite so many words, that the next wave of invitations would go out at NATO's 50th anniversary summit in April 1999. But that is not the sort of promise that has to be kept.

A bruising ratification battle in the U.S. Senate could use up so much of Clinton's political credit that further expansion became impossible. The cost of the present expansion could get out of control and doom the whole project: estimates range from $29-$35 billion (the White House) to $100-$200 billion (the U.S. Congress budget office) over the next dozen years, though the new members are expected to cover most of this themselves.

Above all, opening up a political can of worms is not the sort of thing you do in an election year. And the "first wave" of new NATO members may remain the only wave for quite a while.

"The Madrid summit was one more demonstration that NATO is an alliance of one superpower and fifteen smaller countries. If three new members is all that Clinton can get through the U.S. Senate (which must ratify the expansion by a two-thirds majority), then three new members is all the alliance will have, at least for now."

Defactonomics

No justification for Spain's veto of Jordan-EU partnership

By Dr. Tayseer Abdel Jaber

AFTER TWO years of negotiations with the European Union (EU), the association agreement with Jordan was initialed last April. The final signing of the agreement and its ratification by Jordan and every individual country of the 15 members of the EU will take time, but it is only a formality. In any case, it is expected that the agreement will come in force as of January 1999.

However, this process has been disrupted by Spain's veto of the EU agreement with Jordan. The veto was based on the Spaniards' fear of the competition that Jordanian exports of tomato paste to the EU might pose to its own exports. A look at the figures indicates that this fear is not justified at all; it also illustrates how protective the European agricultural policy is and how it contradicts with the trade liberalisation process which the EU is promoting so that a free trade area can be achieved by the year 2010 in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Jordan's total exports to the EU amounted to JD 86.2 million in 1996. This includes all kinds of commodity exports. It represents a small percentage of Jordan's exports: only eight per cent.

Our exports of tomatoes, including tomato paste, to all EU countries were limited to less than JD 3 million, a negligible amount of the European imports and consumption of the product.

After intensive negotiations, a quota of 3,000 tonnes of tomato paste exports from Jordan was agreed upon, to which Spain is surprisingly objecting.

In accordance with the association agreement, Jordan is obliged to remove all tariff and non-tariff barriers on its imports of industrial products from the EU over a period of 12 years. Though Jordan's market is relatively small, its imports from the EU are ten times its exports, and they account for 35 per cent of Jordan's total imports. Under the agreement, Jordan will lose customs revenues and some of its industries will not be able to survive European competition. Trade diversion is also expected to be in favour of imports from the EU. Given this situation, the EU should have been more generous and consistent regarding liberalisation of its imports of agricultural products, in which the Mediterranean countries, and Jordan, will develop a competitive edge.

Spain's position does not only underline the EU's contradictory policy of trade liberalisation it also will discourage other Mediterranean countries from negotiating and concluding similar agreements. It is well known that Egypt has faced an example of protectionism against its potato exports to Europe. Negotiations with Algeria, Syria and Lebanon are still in their early stages and could be adversely affected by the Spanish veto on Jordanian tomato paste.

Finally, the Spanish veto comes at a time when our bilateral relations are at their best. Cooperation between the two countries is cherished by both their leaderships and peoples. I only hope that the veto will be dealt with expeditiously, as an internal European matter, and will not be left to block a stronger cooperation and partenariat that is stipulated in the Barcelona Declaration.

LETTERS

Check and balances vital

To the Editor:

I HESITATED before writing this note because I come from a family of doctors and felt reluctant to cast doubt over this sacred profession.

However, having lived for more than one year watching my sister go through a miserable time, in confusion and uncertainty, due to shortcomings and negligence on the part of the system that protected and insulates our doctors and hospitals from public retribution, I felt I had to write the following:

A few weeks ago, letters in the Jordan Times concerning a patient who seemed to have been subjected to the same system which failed dismally made me even more determined to call for something serious to be done to make our doctors and hospitals accountable.

My sister had a minor accident last year, which resulted in a fracture of the femur bone. Subsequently she was taken to a hospital and an operation was recommended by a number of specialists.

The journey of errors began soon afterwards, with the specialist ordering her transfer to a specific hospital because "it had the equipment necessary for the operation."

The move itself was apparently dangerous enough to induce clotting and the equipment that was supposed to be necessary for the operation was not available.

A few days after being discharged, the wound began to ooze and subsequent testing showed serious bacterial contamination which was traced to the operating theatre. (We discovered later this was not the first case).

Three months later, and after very inconvenient, intravenous antibiotic treatment, we went to England for tests which showed that the bacteria produced a bone defect. To date, we are all traumatised by this situation and still treating the mistake and the nonchalant attitude of our hospitals management.

My sister is still seeking major medical solutions at a huge cost to overcome the existing defect. I am not writing to complain, but something has to be done for the sake of our present and future health care system.

If we were in a developed country, a simple court case would have yielded results very quickly and many checks and balances would have been introduced to avoid recurrence.

I hereby call on the profession to introduce a system of inquiry into and penalties for negligence and for obvious shortcomings, as well as to implement a sound hospital management system. I would like to underline that if such a system is not in place and does not operate real soon, one will be imposed upon us, as has been the case in Europe and the U.S.

Lina Sharaiha
Amman.

Wobbling world body gets a smack in the mouthpiece

U.S. senators have agreed to pay some of Washington's massive arrears to the U.N. — on condition that future contributions are slashed. Threatened by budget reductions and the loss of its development role to powerful financial institutions, the world body now faces big cuts in the department that publicises its work.

By Elvi Routtinen and Daniel Nelson

A BATTLE is brewing over United Nations public information work — with cost-cutting likely to take precedence over effectiveness.

The United States is leading the charge for cutbacks in the 67 information centres which the world body maintains and which take a significant portion of the $137 million annual budget at the U.N.'s Department of Public Information (DPI).

Washington's case is helped by some of these offices' lack of focus and impact.

The U.S. suggests that many of them could be integrated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), or whatever is the dominant U.N. body in a particular country. That might save money but would not solve the problem of the U.N.'s poor information performance.

The media-unfriendly UNDP does achieve publicity for its annual Human Development Report. But this is partly because the document ranks countries in a quality-of-life "league table" — a journalistically attractive device. The rest of its information output sinks without trace.

Other U.N. agencies are as bad, or worse. Some cultivate a culture of secrecy. A majority have no idea how to generate publicity and remain virtually unknown. Ironically, one of the worst in terms of presentation is the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), committed to the promotion of literacy, learning, culture and the media — but renowned for the leadenness of its press releases.

Throughout the U.N. system, only the U.N. Children's Fund has managed consistently to attract media attention.

Envious critics within the U.N. attempt to play down UNICEF's information achievements by saying that it is easy to "sell" the notion of helping babies. But while children provide an emotive topic for reporters, the agency's success really stems from a concerted strategy of courting individual journalists and the media as a whole.

The DPI itself distributes much information in the form of pamphlets, books, films and radio programmes, and has to work in the U.N.'s six official languages.

It also has to commemorate the numerous special days and years — to promote issues such as human rights, the indigenous and the disabled — which the U.N. often declares with little warning.

Besides general cuts, Washington wants the elimination of the DPI's "burden of unfunded mandates," such as the Palestinian Rights Unit, which arranges seminars and trains Palestinian journalists in modern communications technologies.

The proposed DPI restructuring forms part of broader plans for U.N. reform — the first of which is due to be announced by Secretary-General Kofi Annan on July 16. This is being awaited in an atmosphere of some tension and suspicion.

The trouble is that momentum for reform stems mainly from industrialised countries' demands for U.N. cuts and greater coordination, with developing countries adopting the role of preserves of the true faith. Instead of a strategic, long-term rethink of U.N. activities, the result is a sterile stand-off between cutters and defenders of the status quo at the struggling world body.

In practice, this means most member states wait for Washington's suggestions and then react.

Thus, the U.N.'s Information Committee, on which 89 countries are represented, this year delayed part of its deliberations until September to give itself time to study and respond to Annan's recommendations. The move was made, Pakistan's representative on the committee, Salman Abbasy, told Gemini News Service, because "some members smelt a rat" about the direction the reforms might take.

Many of the Group of 77 — which now consists of 129 developing countries, although it is referred to by the number of its founder members 31 years ago — feared that the secretary-general's proposals would be railroaded through without proper consideration by the General Assembly, on the grounds of lack of time. "In the view of the Latin American and Caribbean countries," said a group spokesman, "the September session should not be merely a fait accompli... The secretary-general's proposals are not decisions, and many countries wish to express their views on them."

Some committee members see ulterior forces at work in Annan's appointment of an information task force, chaired by Mark Malloch Brown, the World Bank's vice-president for external affairs.

When Brown went to brief the committee on the group's work, members refused to see him for three hours while the assistant secretary-general for public information, Samir Sanbar, tried to calm the waters: No, the task force was not usurping the committee's authority; yes, it was meant to provide useful information for the secretary-general's report.

Ruffled feathers aside, it is clear the committee and the General Assembly will have to make serious decisions this year about what the U.S. calls "reorientation of the U.N. information activities." The question is whether the exercise will simply be designed to cut costs or whether it will address the serious questions of what U.N. information is supposed to achieve and how the job should best be done.

Gemini News Service

Culture clash: Foreign parents, American child rearing

By Mirta Ojito

SOPHISTICATED NEW Yorkers don't slow down at the sight of a headless chicken on the steps of the Bronx courthouse. They pretend not to notice when a taxi driver crosses himself passing a church. And they have learned to live with dense accents, impolite shopkeepers, loud music and the strong smell of curry.

But there are limits to how far New Yorkers are willing to go in the name of cultural sensitivity. That limit was recently tested in three cases involving children and their foreign parents.

In April, a Russian couple left their 4-year-old daughter home along and went out dancing. Last May, a Danish tourist left her 14-month-old daughter outside a restaurant while she ate inside. In June, a Russian émigré left her 7-year-old son to play in a park while she went to work.

The parents all told the police they were only doing what is the norm back home. Their lawyers claimed theirs were not criminal cases but incidents of cultural differences and that understanding, not punishment, was required. New Yorkers were unmoved. Here, they answered, we call that kind of behaviour child endangerment. And it's illegal.

Perhaps American children are spoiled (studies certainly show that). Perhaps their parents are overprotective, even paranoid. But when a child's welfare is in jeopardy, they quickly respond. New York City in particular turns into a small town and reacts with a vengeance against parents who behave badly. In each of the three New York cases the parents were arrested and their children placed in foster care.

Whether the defence of cultural differences is legitimate or not, it is irrelevant, social workers say. Yet today more and more parents are claiming such differences when faced with accusations of child neglect or abuse.

Different strokes

New York City is not atypical. In Lincoln, Neb., Iraqi-born parents were charged with child abuse after they married their teenage daughters (13 and 14) to grown men. The parents said they were following tradition. In Miami, Jorge Arévalo, a Peruvian, had to prove to social workers that he was a fit father after a woman in a parking lot complained that he had grabbed his screaming 5-year-old by the neck.

"It's amazing the things we don't know about this country," Mr. Arévalo said. "I learned that in this country anybody can call the police if they see you pulling your son's ear."

Social workers say Americans also beat their children, send them to bed hungry or cleanse them in religious rites that are frightening and sometimes dangerous. But foreign-born parents pose a tougher challenge because they can plead ignorance or cultural difference, a highly charged term in these political correct times.

"It's amazing the things we don't know about this country, ...I learned that in this country anybody can call the police if they see you pulling your son's ear."

Social workers are trained to be sensitive to these idiosyncrasies, but not permissive. A child who is found to be at risk is put in foster care while the parents are investigated, regardless of their claims, said Dr. Marceline Watler, director of community education with the Administration for Children's Services.

"Cultural differences are beautiful, but hey have nothing to do with the law," she said. "We can't possibly have a set of laws for Americans, a set of laws for immigrants and then a set of laws for tourists."

Mrs. Watler often encounters parents who simply do not understand what abuse is. They say they should be able to rear their children as they were reared, she said. They also invoke their new American rights. They ask: Isn't this the land of the free? Why is the government meddling in my private affairs? Social workers must explain the difference between discipline and punishment, and that hitting, in public or private, is unacceptable.

Children dominate

But sociologists argue that cultural differences are real and should be considered when applying the law. Child protective agencies, they say, sometimes rigidly react to immigrants and tourists who are not necessarily abusive.

Julia Wrigley, a professor of sociology at the graduate centre of the City University of New York and the author of "Other People's Children" (Basic Books, 1995), found that foreigners are often surprised at how sheltered American children are. Preoccupied with their children's emotional and intellectual development, Americans are overly attentive.

"Our children dominate the household, the dinner table chatter," Mrs. Wrigley said. "But people from other cultures don't encourage high-demand children. Their children tend to be much more independent. Those from Western countries especially, are not accustomed to what they see as our paranoia with children."

In many places in Europe, children go out to play by themselves, she said, because of a basic trust among adults, however, naive, that nobody would want to harm a child. They also live in societies that are safer, more community oriented than America. People new to this country should adapt, Mrs. Wrigley said, but separating a mother from a child for a small cultural transgression is extreme.

Social workers agree that education, not punishment, is the best way to adapt to America's attitudes. But if a child's life is at stake, emergency measures are required, Mrs. Watler said. The parents will have to learn the hard way.

The New York Times

Do voters know where their children are?

By Michael Wines

WASHINGTON — America tried laissez-faire parenting, and sensibly declared it a bust. Modern child-rearing dogma states that kids must learn they alone are responsible for their actions — not society, not school, not the "everybody" who is always doing whatever fool thing one's son or daughter wants to do today, like navel-piercing or exposing one's designer underwear or car-jacking. Personal responsibility has launched a thousand trade paperbacks and boosted the careers of an army of child-behaviour gurus: Bill Bennett ("The Book of Virtues," featuring young George Washington and his cherry tree); Barbara Coloroso ("Kids Are Worth It!" excoriating "jellyfish parents" who rescue kids from their mistakes); Robert Coles ("The Moral Intelligence of Children", bemoaning teens who do drugs because their friends do).

"From early on, we have to emphasise that your friends will not provide you with an excuse for doing something wrong and that we'll never accept that excuse," Dr. Sylvia Rimm ("Dr. Rimm's Smart Parenting") said in a telephone chat that other day. Otherwise, she said, the little brats will carry their blame-shifting habits into adulthood.

And then move to Washington.

Far be it from Dr. Rimm to pass judgement on the rectitude or ideologies of the nation's leaders, now enmeshed in campaign-spending scandals that have soiled both the speaker of the House and the president. On the other hand, she and a couchful of other child-development gurus interviewed last week are among the world's leading experts on pre-adolescent behaviour.

Taking responsibility

In that capacity, they have listened to their leaders' explanations of how they got into this mess, and measured it against their standards for your average two-child-and-a-dog family. Their advice to Republicans and Democrats alike: Go to your rooms.

"Basically, the real issue for kids as well as adults is to say, 'Well, I did something wrong'," said Dr. Stanley Elkind ("All Grown Up and No Place to Go"), a child development expert at Tufts. "One of the things about being grown up is taking responsibility for your behaviour. And this is one of the things they're not doing."

True, Mr. Clinton said recently that he takes "personal responsibility" for White House coffees with donors. And Mr. Gingrich admitted he had violated House rules and agreed to pay a $300,000 fine.

But Ms. Coloroso writes that children should "take ownership" of misdeeds by admitting error and making amends. Mr. Clinton, by contrast, is defiant: although he railed in 1992 against "cliques of $100,000 donors" who bought access to the White House, he has argued that White House sleepovers with even bigger donors were perfectly legal hospitality. And he said it was all necessary to beat the Republicans, whose even greedier fund-raising would otherwise have "buried" him. Vice President Al Gore also side-stepped blame for using White House phones to hit up donors. Nobody's been jailed for that, he said, in effect, so it must be legal. And anyway, I've stopped.

The wrong playground

And Mr. Gingrich? He later dismissed his violations as "technical, saying lots of politicians run tax-exempt foundations. And he said his fine was not a penalty, but repayment of money the House spent investigating him.

To some of the experts, this is all too much like the 16-year-old who misses curfew by three hours, blames his tardiness on heavy traffic and says all his friends stay out even later anyway. Ms. Coloroso put it this way: "'It wasn't my fault; he made me do it.' This is what happens when we don't discipline children at a very young age, as opposed to rescuing them from their mistakes. It's a cycle of evading responsibility."

Dr. Coles, the world-famous Harvard psychiatrist, put it a bit differently. "It's sort of like an anarchic playground," he said, "one of those unfortunate playgrounds of a kind that maybe some people even sought after in the '60s, in which there were no rules and each kid was allowed to do what he or she wanted."

He dissolved in giggles. "The teachers have all gone home. If this were a school, I'd be laughing and worried at the same time. I'd call the police, but there are no police to be called in, because they've all been bought off."

Indeed, if politicians were real children, the parenting experts would be nearly unanimous in their view of how the youngsters should be dealt with. "There are things we don't do, not because 'it's against the law,' 'it's against my religion,' or 'we might get caught,' but simply because we have internalised certain no's into our own moral backbone," Ms. Coloroso writes in "Kids Are Worth It!" It is the parents' job to build that backbone by setting limits and sticking to them, she says.

Dr. Elkind concurs. "Nobody's setting down fairly explicit rules about what the rules of the house are," he said. And, he said, the little miscreant shouldn't be allowed to argue that "everybody does it." "What anybody else does doesn't affect your behaviour," he said. "Two wrongs don't make a right."

What are the rules?

Dr. Coles did regain his composure, and ventured that the real problem here may lie deep in the national id. Politics has always smelled of Tammany Hall and Teapot Dome, he suggested, and Americans have always tolerated a little favouritism in politics — to keep government running, perhaps. But like a lot of parents, he said, voters have never made clear how much is too much.

"It's hard to get a real fix on that, because the country hasn't come to that yet," he said. "Maybe this is the beginning of some moral maturation in our lives, and there'll be enough embarrassment and shame that the people will respond and something will be done."

Sure, and maybe Jimmy Stewart will be elected president on a ticket with Frank Capra Jr.

Dr. Coles sounded reflective. "Children have to be taught values, and that society insists on obedience to these values," he said. "I don't know whether these children are going to grow up fast enough to enforce discipline on themselves."

The New York Times

Life in Europe is great — if you have a job

By Jeffrey Ulbrich
The Associated Press

VILVOORDE, Belgium — Renault's sudden decision to shut its car factory in this nondescript Brussels suburb and throw 3,100 people out of work sent a shock wave across Europe. If a profitable Belgian plant can be closed, is anybody's job safe?

Germany, the economic locomotive of Western Europe, is running out of steam, and even Bonn may have trouble meeting the fiscal standards for participating in the European Union's single currency in two years.

Italy, with one of the fattest economies on the continent, seems to be sliding out of the 15-nation European Union altogether, victim of a runaway social system that consumes money by the truckload.

Make no mistake, life is still good. Fifty years of peace and cooperation have paid off. The wine is wonderful. Fashion flourishes. There is a car in every garage. Stores are richly stocked. The road and rail systems are great. Fine food is abundant.

Things have never been better — if you have a job.

Unemployment in the EU averages 10.8 per cent — more than double the U.S. rate — and ranges as high as 21.6 per cent in Spain, leaving many Europeans fearful for the security and well being of their families.

Jobs are clearly the biggest concern across the continent, but not the only one. Some folks worry that swarthy foreigners are flooding their countries, not only taking scarce jobs, but assaulting the culture and character of their hosts with strange customs and religions.

The largely crime-free streets of the past are no longer quite so safe, another phenomenon many people attribute to immigration, legal and illegal, from Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. That exacerbates xenophobia and fuels latent bigotry.

"Yes, life is still good — for the moment," says Jacques Barnier, 54, who works for Renault's truck division in Lyon, France. "But not for the young. When they can find work, they are being paid much lower salaries."

If life should deal one of its little knocks, most Europeans expect government to break their fall with generous unemployment payments, full health coverage, housing allowances, child care. That, of course, is the rub. More and more governments are finding they cannot afford it.

Unemployment has hit a record 12.8 per cent in France. Conservative President Jacques Chirac says the only way to get a handle on the economy is austerity and deep cuts in benefits, a tough message to sell in legislative elections scheduled for May 25 and once the Socialists are hitting hard.

Across the channel, Britain's conservative government pushed unemployment down to 6.1 per cent and forged one of the more productive economies in Europe, but the voters tossed them out anyway. The Labour Party's victory in Britain has inspired French Socialists with the possibility of ousting Mr. Chirac's centre-right coalition.

Europe "has always been politically dominated by the right," Michel Rocard, France's former Socialist premier, said in a recent article. The left never attained sufficient force to impose its priorities on the continent, he said, but now, "It's France that will upset Europe." For the moment, the polls say he is wrong.

Only after Britain's Labour Party abandoned much of its socialist thinking was the party was reborn. In France, fresh Socialist ideas seem in short supply.

Conservative Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany is forging ahead with a programme to rein in government spending and social benefits as the best way to combat rising joblessness and faltering growth.

After swallowing East Germany and its myriad problems, the new Germany finds itself like many of its fellow EU members, struggling to meet stiff economic criteria for joining the single currency in 1999.

Italians were devastated in April when the EU said Italy probably would not meet requirements for participating in the single currency. This despite a strenuous economic reform effort that has hit average Italians hard — including a purportedly one-time tax aimed at raising $8.5 billion for the treasury.

Like the French, Italians refuse to contemplate reductions in hard-won social benefits that provide a cradle-to-grave safety net. Demonstrators in Milan recently called the government's austerity efforts "a vampire sucking the blood out of Italians."

With such benefits, life is good for Mr. Barnier, the French factory worker who will retire on a full pension in just six years at age 60.

It's not even so bad for his brother, who has been living on substantial unemployment benefits for four years.

"He wants a job of a certain level," Mr. Barnier said, sighing. "Without that, he would rather be unemployed."

Badran: Total investments in Jordan rise by 30 per cent

AMMAN (Petra) — The total volume of investment in Jordan since the 1996 investment promotion law came into force increased by 30 per cent, according to the Jordan Investment Promotion (JIP).

JIP Director General Reem Badran said that in 1996 total investments in Jordan's different sectors amounted to JD354 million, with the tourism and industrial maritime transport, agriculture and hospital sectors generating the larger share.

Ms. Badran said that so far investors have requested to carry out 15 projects together worth JD105 million.

JIP has approved 13 projects by local and foreign investors worth JD95 million in industry and tourism, Ms. Badran said promising additional facilities for the investors in the coming stage.

She said the Ministry of Industry and Trade plans to create a committee grouping representatives of various ministries and departments which would issue licences for investors.

She also said tourism projects, recreational schemes and exhibition complexes will all be classified as part of the tourism sector entitling them to all the related benefits.

To further facilitate matters for investors, she said the government did away with a condition requiring a minimum capital of JD100,000 for a project by a foreign investor, adding that no minimum level of capital for local and foreign investors will be required to start a project.

Saudi economy on course for solid 1997 growth

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's economy is expected to grow between 2.5-4.5 per cent in real terms this year, partly shrugging off a downturn in world oil prices, bankers and economists in the Gulf Arab state have said.

Riyadh has enjoyed petrodollar earnings above conservative budget expectations in the first seven months of the year despite a 25 per cent fall in world oil prices since January.

But heavy government spending, particularly on state salaries, education, health and infrastructure, is likely to keep the budget deficit at around 3.0-3.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1997 and delay plans to balance the budget by the year 2000.

Lower petroleum prices are also expected to return the current account to deficit and rule out a repeat of last year's $12 billion oil windfall.

Saudi Finance Minister Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Al Asaf has expressed optimism about having real growth of nearly six per cent in the economy this year, following on from a nominal growth rate of 8.6 per cent in 1996.

Saudi Arabia's 1997 budget envisages a shortfall of 17 billion riyals ($4.5 billion) on projected state spending of 181 billion riyals. Riyadh last year posted its first current account surplus (700 million riyals) for13 years.

"Economically the country is not in difficulty. It's financial condition is good at the moment but in the short-term it depends on the trend in oil prices," said one banker who declined to be identified.

"The current account will show a deficit because of lower oil prices and higher imports," he added.

Oil prices, which account for some 75 per cent of Saudi revenue, remain in sight of the $16.00-$16.50 a barrel mark which analysts say Saudi planners have based this year's budget.

The Paris-based International Energy Agency has predicted softer world markets in the second half of the year because of rises in non-OPEC production and quota busting by OPEC states.

Riyadh can take heart from a rising stock market, higher foreign currency reserves, zero foreign sovereign debt, falling contractural debt and a rosy credit rating that comes with being the world's largest oil producer and exporter.

The stock market's all-share index has risen more than five per cent this year, lifted by the government's decision last year to pay back debts, low price earnings ratios and a gradual relaxation in rules governing outside investment.

Moody's Investors Service last month announced an improved outlook for Saudi Arabia's BAA3 long-term foreign currency sovereign ceilings for bonds and bank deposits based on favourable developments in Saudi fiscal policy.

The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency's (SAMA) decision on July 5 to increase its repo rate, which determines domestic short-term interest rates, to 5.7 per cent from 5.6 per cent was not dampening business confidence.

"The economy is in a new cycle...Optimism has increased and the rate of growth is encouraging," said Ismail Sajini, president of the Sajini Research and Consultancy Centre.

But structural economic problems, notably unemployment — unofficially put in double digits — an over-dependency on the oil sector and the state's hesistant approach to privatisation and subsidy removal, were also unlikely to be reformed given a cushion of buoyant petroleum income.

"There is no real serious thinking about privatisation. The concept of selling shares in public sector firms has slowed down," said one Riyadh-based economic analyst.

Oil output seen declining in 15 years

LONDON (R) — World oil production will start to decline within 15 years if the rate of extraction remains at current levels, a U.S. geologist has predicted.

The global economic catastrophe that would follow a decline in production can only be prevented by the development of an alternative fuel source, said Craig Bond Hatfield, a geologist at the University of Toledo in Ohio.

"The world will probably reach its maximum oil production rate in the next 15 years," he wrote in a commentary in the science journal Nature, recognised as an important world forum for such topics.

Even if demand does not grow, the decline in production would start by the year 2036, he said.

"In 1985, global oil consumption was 59.7 million barrels per day," Mr. Hatfield wrote. "By 1995 it was more than 69 million barrels per day."

This 16 per cent increase was accounted for by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"Geological data indicate that, during the next 10 years, oil production outside OPEC countries will remain incapable of significant, sustained growth and is likely to begin a permanent decline during the first decade of the 21st century," he wrote.

New discoveries were not keeping pace with production, he added. "Globally, new discovery has averaged less than nine billion barrels per year since 1985 while consumption has averaged more than 23 billion barrels per year," Mr. Hatfield indicated.

Mr. Hatfield examined known and estimated reserves and possibilities for new production and came to the conclusion that the oil was indeed drying up.

It could take 140 years for every drop to go — as long as it took to get to this point, he said.

"But that's not a particularly important date because the exhaustion of the resource is only the end of a long, gradual decline in oil production which will last many decades," he said in a telephone interview.

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates — Prices as at 12/07/97 18:20

Currency	BSD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7800	0.5917	1.4670	114.30	1.3707	1727.00	2.0043	6.0215
DE Mark	0.5618	-	0.3321	0.8241	64.21	0.7696	969.56	1.1258	3.3822
GB Sterling	1.6900	3.0070	-	2.4742	192.98	2.3165	2918.63	3.3873	10.1763
CH Franc	0.6817	121.25	0.4030	-	77.90	0.9337	1176.43	136.34	4.1018
JP Yen	0.0087	1.5559	0.5171	1.2823	-	1.1982	15.10	175.20	5.2635
CA Dollar	0.7296	1.2768	0.4316	1.0682	1.20	-	1243.27	1.4373	4.3027
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0301	0.3423	0.0849	1513.09	0.7932	-	11.60	3.4847
NL Guilder	0.4989	88.79	0.2951	73.19	57.00	0.6837	861.43	-	3.0035
FR Franc	0.1661	0.2955	0.0982	24.3546	18.96	0.2276	33.27	33.2700	-

Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7080	3.7505	0.0377	3.6400	0.3023	3.6725	1534.50	3.3875
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	-	5.2973	0.0532	5.1412	0.4269	5.1871	2167.37	4.7846
GB Sterling	0.2666	0.1888	-	0.0101	0.97	0.0806	0.98	409.15	0.9032
Bahrain Dinar	26.53	18.7798	99.4828	-	96.55	8.0172	97.41	########	89.8541
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	0.0304	-	0.0830	1.01	421.57	0.9306
Kuwait Dinar	3.3085	2.3424	12.4086	0.1247	12.04	-	12.15	5078.92	0.9306
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0212	0.0103	0.9912	0.0823	-	417.84	0.9224
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4614	2.4441	0.0246	2.3721	0.1970	2.3933	-	2.2075
Egyptian	0.2952	0.2090	1.1072	0.0111	1.0745	0.0892	1.0841	452.99	-

Energy

Oils	Last	Previous
Brent	18.40	18.57
Wt. Texa	19.34	19.18
Bonny	18.40	18.57
Dubai	18.85	18.80
UL Gas	179.00	178.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4749	0.15777	0.39142	30.5027
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.48497	0.16112	0.39973	31.1507
KW Dinar	3.3085	5.89275	1.95771	4.85673	378.501
BH Dinar	0.0377	47.1698	15.6986	38.9105	3030.3
CY Pound	1.925	3.4265	1.1387	2.824	220.028

Metal Prices

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	321.2	321.7
Silver (oz's)	4.36	4.38
Platinum (oz's)	398	399
AL (3 Months)	1582	1587
CU (3 Months)	2287	2292
Zinc (3 Months)	1489	1492
Lead (3 Months)	664	668
NI (3 Months)	6935	6950

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Period / Curncy	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	1 Year
USD	5.53	5.59	5.68	5.78	5.87
GBP	6.68	6.93	7.12	7.22	7.37
JPY	0.56	0.65	0.68	0.74	0.78
DEM	3.00	3.03	3.09	3.11	3.18
FRF	3.22	3.27	3.33	3.37	3.42
CHF	1.35	1.35	1.38	1.21	1.25
ITL	6.87	6.82	6.67	6.54	6.40

Main Equity Indices

Source	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls
NewYork	DOW JONES	7921.82	35.06	0.44	7955.29	7887.21	7886.76
Newyork	S&P 500	916.68	2.9	0.32	919.74	913.11	913.78
London	FT-SE 100	4799.5	31.7	0.66	4800.1	4765.5	4767.8
Tokyo	NIKKIE 225	19875.49	120.71	0.61	19892.6	19642.9	19754.8
Paris	CAC 40	2941.59	12.5	0.43	2946.09	2928.38	2929.09
Frankfurt	DAX	4040.97	48.59	1.22	4050.41	4017.36	3992.38

Energy

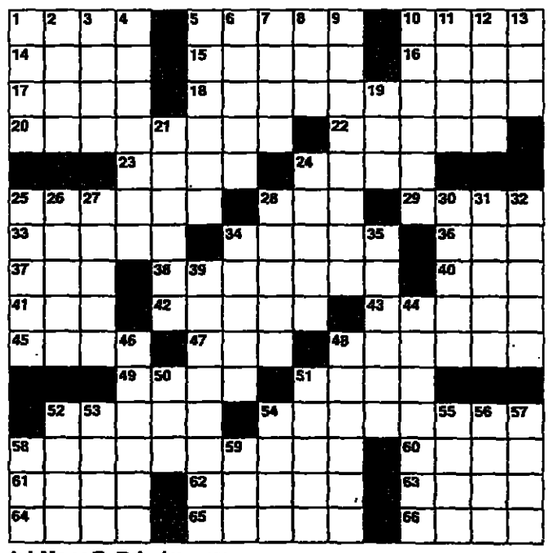
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	179.17	Spot
Cocoa ($/ton)	1595	Spot
Sugar ($/ton)	324	Spot
Wheat ($/ton)	147.5	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	21.9	Spot
Tea (stg/kg)	128	Spot
Barley ($/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice ($/ton)	480	Spot

*** JOD Cross Rates**

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1957	1.2017
DE Mark	0.3966	0.3988
CH Franc	0.4818	0.4842
FR Franc	0.1175	0.1181
JP Yen	0.8184	0.8216
NL Guilder	0.3523	0.3541
IT Lira	0.4094	0.4114

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan

THE Daily Crossword



by Mary E. Brindamour

ACROSS
1 Radar image
5 Garden walks
10 Barry or Garroway
14 Modena money
15 Hunter of the sky
16 King toppers
17 Slightly moist
18 Hand grenades
20 Wrestles
22 Toaster type
23 Of memorable times
24 Graf —
25 Not as plentiful
28 Chem. or biol.
29 Halyard
33 Like new bills
34 UN VIP, U —
36 Gun gp.
37 Zodiac symbol
38 Alphabetize
40 "It" game
41 Devoured
42 Decade increments
43 Pick or trowel
45 Chick's sound
47 Pickpocket
48 Trance
49 Soviet sea
51 Lob or mob end
52 Canned, as tomatoes
54 Arachnid
58 Fictional picker
60 Brute
61 British gun
62 Frankie, '50s pop singer
63 Sheds tears
64 Rorschach or Wasserman
65 Computer command
66 Once, once

DOWN
1 Edifice: abbr.
2 Truth stretcher
3 La Douce
4 Showers with missiles
5 Aspen relative
6 Satellite of Uranus
7 Cookie holders
8 Garden tool
9 Kind of turtle
10 Dressed to the nines
11 Rights org.
12 Certain officeholder
13 Sigma-to us
19 "The Raven" author
21 Remit in advance
24 Goes over quickly
25 Discard
26 Babble on and on
27 Evangelist McPherson
28 Quick-witted
30 Ready to serve
31 Museum of Spain
32 Ali agog
34 Hiker's route
35 Four-poster canopy
39 Delicious
44 Use
46 Register an invention
48 Hoarder
50 Capek's play
51 Seascape, for one
52 Sampras
53 Shoshoneans
54 Rotisserie part
55 Stravinsky
56 Globes
57 Oriole's home
58 Call for attention
59 Bond's Fleming

Saturday's Puzzle solved:

G	O	S	H			S	E	T	H		R	I	G	A
A	L	L	O	W		P	L	E	A		A	D	E	N
F	L	A	S	H	W	I	L	D	R	E	P	O	R	T
F	A	T	T	I	E	R			S	M	I	L	E	S
				T	E	A		S	H	O	E			
S	C	O	R	E	P	L	A	C	E	T	R	U	M	P
C	O	Z	E	N			L	O	S	E		M	A	E
O	L	A	F		S	C	O	T	T		D	I	R	T
L	O	W		M	E	A	N			G	I	A	N	T
D	R	A	W	I	N	G	G	R	E	E	N	K	E	Y
		H	A	T	E			A	L	I				
I	N	C	O	M	E			M	E	G	A	T	O	N
C	A	L	L	I	N	G	F	A	C	E	T	I	M	E
E	T	A	L		C	O	E	D		R	O	L	E	S
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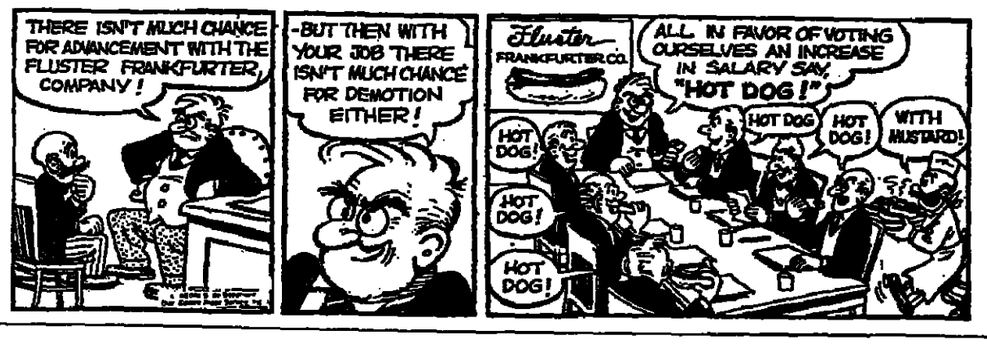
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JULY 13, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You should stay away from persons with ideas radically different from you own, and thereby you will avoid any difficulties. Show that you are loyal to your loved ones by doing something which they will appreciate.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You should not do anything which could harm your reputation today, and don't be critical of a superior or a disagreement could develop. Avoid a caustic-tongued individual who could cause great difficulty.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You should not change boats in midstream today, or you will greatly regret it in the days ahead. You should try to get as much rest as possible later this evening so that you can handle the hectic days ahead.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You may feel that if you change your present situation today, you will be much better in the days ahead, however, don't take any action as this time. Later this evening will be good for seeing close friends at recreational activities.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make it a point today to avoid persons who you know are usually argumentative. You should not try to finalise any formal agreements at this time, since you discover that every aspect of the negotiations are still pending.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) It is fine today to be helpful to your good friends, however, don't weaken them by being too generous. Take any necessary health treatments so that you will be physically capable to handle the hectic days ahead.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You should not get involved in some recreational activity you know very little about later this evening, as it will probably be too expensive and also disappointing. This is a good day for go out on the town with mate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you don't control your temper today, your home could become a regular battle zone, so be diplomatic and restore order and happiness. Later this evening will be good for meeting with knowledgeable people.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be courteous and cheerful today, and you will benefit immensely. It is necessary that you use greater than normal care in motion, especially on the highway where you can avoid getting into any difficulties.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are anxious to make changes in property and financial affairs today, thereby you can be successful in your career activities. Enjoy your loved ones this evening and plan to do something which they will truly appreciate.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You should not take a chance on ruining a long-time friendship in order to establish a new one. Don't bring any strangers into your home later this evening, since you could discover that they could be bad news.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You may feel that you cannot stand a situation any longer, however, one last try could turn it around. Avoid a disagreement with your mate or either of you could say things which will be later regretted.

Birthstone of July: Pearl — Ruby — Tiger's Eye

Busines

Daily

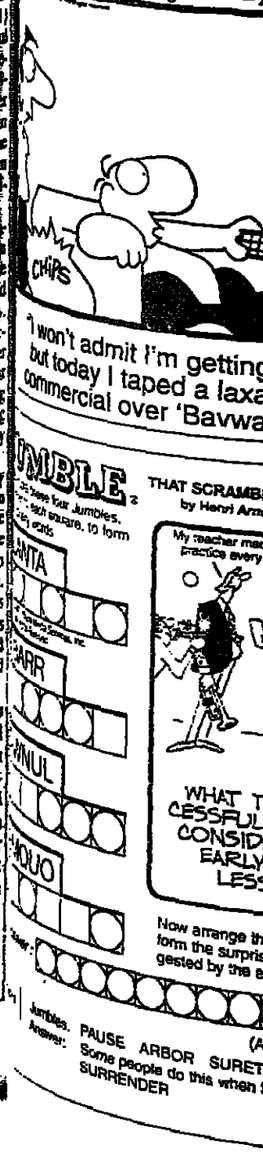
Modern Food Industries
Oil Company gets $3m
loan from Danish Inte
Development Assis

THE DANISH International De
(DIDA) has agreed to extend a
re-loan to the Modern Food In
Oil Company. In this regard,
ed by Mohammad Shaker Al Gh
of the company and a senior
the Bank in Denmark under wh
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complete processing line for froze
DIDA has agreed to soften the te
through an aid component as set
agreement on guidelines for off
on credits and to disburse the
pay to the lender. Mr. Al Ghaw
were signed after commencing all
social and programming which was
companies in developing coun
negotiations with Danish compa
Al Ghawi noted that the agree
granted to any company or indi
financing was approved by the
Jordan and the Export and Finance
for a guarantee covering the lo
the Den Danske Bank. A grant
JD100 was granted by DIDA as a
way to reduce the repayment p
seven years. J T

United Insura
Company to cap
JD350,000 of re

THE GENERAL assembly of the U
has approved increasing J
ise and floating shares worth JD
subscription in order to raise the
from JD1.5 million to JD2 million
ording to the annual report, the
ed JD265,000 loss in 1996 com
JD300 profit posted in 1995. The
ss was attributed to a net loss o
department of vehicles which ea
JD200 in 1996. Board Chairman F
the general assembly that the com
was higher last year but there w
fewer car accidents and large rise
it.
He explained that during the last
the situation became critical an
forced to cancelling a large number o
The company will put the sit
during 1997," Dr. Abu Jaber stressed
added also that the stiff competition
between eight insurance companie
cause a drop in prices and, as such, m
premiums declined.
Claims amounted to JD4.44 m
compared to JD2.20 million in 19
Assets totalled about JD2.7 million
versus JD1.9 million in the preceding
The balance sheet rose from JD6.5 m
to JD7 million at the end of 1996. To
saving bank deposits, shares, certific
bonds amounted to JD1.6 million w
there about JD3.6 million. Total
declined by 10.5 per cent from JD
to JD2.22 million in 1996 (Al Ra

THE BETTER HALF®



Daily Beat

Modern Food Industries & Vegetable Oil Company gets $3m interest-free loan from Danish International Development Assistance

** THE DANISH International Development Assistance (DIDA) has agreed to extend a $3 million interest-free loan to the Modern Food Industries and Vegetable Oil Company. In this regard, an agreement was signed by Mohammad Shaker Al Ghawi, board chairman of the company and a senior official of Den Danske Bank in Denmark under which the bank will finance 85 per cent of the total price of equipment for a complete processing line for frozen vegetables.

DIDA has agreed to soften the terms of the loan "through an aid component as set out in the OECD arrangement on guidelines for officially-supported export credits" and to disburse the aid component directly to the lender. Mr. Al Ghawi said this agreement was signed after completing all requirements for financial aid programme which was set by DIDA to help companies in developing countries in order to develop relations with Danish companies.

Mr. Al Ghawi noted that the agreement is the first loan granted to any company or individual in Jordan. The borrowing was approved by the Central Bank of Jordan and the Export and Finance Bank approved issuing a guarantee covering the loan in favour of DIDA or Den Danske Bank. A grant element of about $274,000 was granted by DIDA as a cash gift to the company to reduce the repayment period from eight years to six years (J.T.).

United Insurance Company to capitalise JD350,000 of reserves

** THE GENERAL assembly of the United Insurance Company has approved capitalising JD350,000 of the reserves and floating shares worth JD150,000 for private subscription in order to raise the company's capital from JD1.5 million to JD2 million.

According to the annual report, the company suffered a JD265,000 loss in 1996 compared to about JD387,000 profit posted in 1995. The reason behind the loss was attributed to a net loss of JD621,000 in the department of vehicles which earned a total of JD222,700 in 1996. Board Chairman Raouf Abu Jaber told the general assembly that the company's production was higher last year but there were also a big increase in car accidents and large rise in commissions paid.

He explained that during the last two months of 1996, the situation became critical and the company resorted to cancelling a large number of vehicle insurances. "The company will put the situation back in order in 1997," Dr. Abu Jaber stressed. The chairman indicated also that the stiff competition, following the entry of new eight insurance companies to the market, caused a drop in prices and, as such, marine insurance premiums declined.

Paid claims amounted to JD4.44 million last year compared to JD2.20 million in 1995. Premiums retained totalled about JD4.7 million in 1996 compared to JD3.6 million in the preceding year. The total of the balance sheet rose from JD6.5 million in 1995 to JD6.9 million at the end of 1996. Total investments including bank deposits, shares, certificates of deposit and bonds amounted to JD1.6 million whereas receivables were about JD3.6 million. Total shareholders' equity declined by 10.5 per cent from JD2.5 million in 1995 to JD2.22 million in 1996 (Al Ra'i).

Foreign oil firms line up as Kuwait boosts capacity

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The oil majors are lining up to advise Kuwait on ambitious plans to boost crude capacity but some experts warn that such technical support may cost them more lucrative partnerships in the future.

France's Total is the latest foreign firm to offer technical advice to state-owned Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), having signed a three and a half year technical service accord Wednesday to advise on reservoirs in southern Kuwait.

KOC has similar fee-based agreements with British Petroleum, which renewed its contract for three years in August 1996, and the U.S. firm Chevron, whose accord runs for three and a half years and expires in February 1998.

Others have lined up to work on technical studies. The Anglo-Dutch firm Shell has assessed Kuwait's offshore fields, while Exxon of the United States is studying a small onshore reservoir.

The majors may be queuing up, but experts say they are less interested in the low-return consultancy contracts than the prospect of more rewarding partnerships which would give a direct role in production.

The oil firms are betting on Kuwait's increasing need for advanced technology as it pushes ahead with multi-billion dollar plans to boost production capacity 25 per cent to three million barrels per day (bpd) by 2005.

"If Kuwait is going to meet its stated target of production growth, they will have difficulty without the assistance that these (international) companies can bring," said one Western oil analyst.

But offering consultancy services may not be helping their cause, he said, because the advice from the oil majors is filling some of the gaps in technology and easing pressure on Kuwait to make an early decision to open up.

"If you have all the support with technical service agreements, why would you give up one barrel of oil?" the analyst asked. "There is no motivation for KOC to change anything."

Also, the oil majors cannot entice Kuwait with their deep wallets because Kuwaiti officials say the oil-rich emirate has the funds for the expansion programme despite the conservative price tag of $10 billion .

Kuwait's caution in opening up the oil sector to direct foreign involvement is mainly based on the strategic role it plays in the economy. About 85 per cent of government revenues come from oil exports.

KOC, the production arm of state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, currently produces some two million bpd in line with a quota set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

But there is also some popular suspicion about foreign firms.

KOC, once owned by B.P. and Gulf Oil Company of the United States, came under state control in the 1960s and 1970s, a move driven by economic interests and nationalist fervour.

"Some members of parliament might have problems with (international involvement) because they think it's going back to the colonial times. But we're 50 years from those times. It's never going to be like that again," commented one oil expert.

The experts say the majors do not expect concessions which would hand them a high degree of control over the oil in the ground, but hope for an agreement that will, at least, give them some profit incentive.

There are, however, some positive signs that Kuwait is moving, if slowly, toward giving the majors a bigger role, which those with technical service accords hope to snap up.

Ahmad Al Arbeed, a KOC executive assistant managing director, told AFP in April that Kuwait is looking at "how to better utilise the foreign firms."

KOC will require greater assistance than is currently provided through the technical accords to reach its three million bpd target, he said, but without giving hints about what kind of agreement might follow or when.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 12/07/1997

	PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
↑	270.000	214.500	ARAB BANK	12.6	1.45	48	1980	542820	270.00	275.00	5.00+
N	2.340	1.680	JOR.NATIONAL BK.	E	0.00	27	27948	57254	2.05	2.04	.01-
	3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.7	0.00	1	250	800	3.25	3.20	.05-
	2.480	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV.BK.	8.1	7.69	18	7170	15874	2.23	2.20	.03-
	5.200	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	14.6	3.96	6	983	4816	4.90	4.90	-
	4.180	2.440	JOR.KUWAIT BANK	10.0	0.00	22	13673	38472	2.85	2.82	.03-
	1.050	.780	JOR.GULF BANK	4.9	8.43	2	250	208	.86	.83	.03-
	4.050	3.480	JOR.ISLAMIC BANK	15.5	3.15	27	7579	28829	3.80	3.81	.01+
	3.800	3.000	JOR.INV.FIN.BANK	20.4	0.00	6	833	2628	3.10	3.17	.07+
	1.440	1.020	PHILADEL.INV.BK.	g	0.00	5	10600	10814	1.02	1.02	-
	BANK SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 206.13 %CHG: +1.28			162	71466	702514			
	3.000	2.700	JORDAN INSURANCE	12.2	5.28	3	7900	22124	2.70	2.86	.14+
	2.350	1.600	JOR FRENCH INSUR.	4.6	12.27	7	5550	9064	1.64	1.63	.01-
	INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 114.74 %CHG: +1.71			10	13450	31188			
	1.820	1.490	JOR.ELECTRIC PWR.	7.9	6.13	16	5292	8625	1.64	1.63	.01-
	7.500	6.000	VHCLS. OWNERS FED.	7.9	4.86	1	50	360	7.20	7.20	-
	2.660	2.090	SHIPPING LINES	15.5	4.89	1	150	399	2.66	2.66	-
↑	1.420	.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	g	0.00	87	65650	97370	1.42	1.49	.07+
	7.570	3.900	AD-DUSTOUR	25.4	3.38	1	1300	8125	6.25	6.25	-
	1.910	1.170	MID. EAST HOTELS	18.3	0.00	1	1700	2040	1.21	1.20	.01-
	2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	8.0	6.55	1	500	840	1.68	1.68	-
	SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 107.63 %CHG: +0.09			111	74741	118174			
	4.450	3.070	JOR. CEMENT FACR.	27.3	2.72	32	44519	180680	4.06	4.05	.01-
	7.050	4.950	ARAB POTASH CO.	15.4	3.03	3	450	2970	6.65	6.60	.05-
	10.250	8.850	JOR. PETROL.REFINARY	9.5	9.06	20	1770	17379	9.81	9.81	-
	3.260	1.650	INDUSTRIAL COMM.AGR.	g	0.00	5	1479	2558	1.77	1.73	.04-
	7.150	6.000	JOR.WORSTED MILLS	9.7	3.33	5	1510	9060	6.00	6.00	-
	4.100	3.040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	10.9	5.04	28	6143	24373	3.96	3.97	.01+
	7.250	5.700	JOR.CERAMIC IND.	6.8	3.03	2	300	1942	6.54	6.60	.06+
	1.820	1.340	JOR.PIPES MANFCT.	16.6	5.97	6	1280	1698	1.34	1.34	-
	3.410	2.700	JOR.PAPER CARDED.	15.5	0.00	1	100	275	2.70	2.75	.05+
↓	10.250	5.830	ARAB CHEM. DTRECH.	17.0	5.43	1	100	554	5.83	5.54	.29-
	5.650	4.250	DAR ALDAWA DV.INV.	12.8	4.78	15	2452	12795	5.30	5.23	.07-
	3.850	2.430	ARAB ALUM.IND.	5.7	10.25	4	900	2184	2.44	2.44	-
	1.310	1.000	ARAB PAPER CONV.TRD.	30.6	0.00	6	20200	20200	1.00	1.00	-
	.770	.510	NATIONAL INDS.	g	0.00	4	3500	1820	.52	.52	-
	1.330	.510	INTERMED.PETRO.CHEM.	g	0.00	15	7100	3939	.52	.53	.01+
↓	2.980	1.710	UNIV.CHEM.INDS.	14.7	6.13	1	1000	1610	1.71	1.63	.08-
	3.330	2.130	NATL.CABLE WIRE.MFAC	40.1	0.00	1	5000	12500	2.50	2.50	-
	1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM.CHEM.	17.4	5.15	2	500	680	1.36	1.36	-
	2.020	1.170	UNIV. MODN.INDS.	P	.22	13	7600	8935	1.18	1.17	.01-
	1.520	1.080	JOR.INDS.RESOURCES	14.5	9.26	16	3900	4212	1.08	1.08	-
	1.600	1.300	NATL. CHLORINE	13.3	4.96	11	8300	11784	1.43	1.41	.02-
	1.090	.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.2	0.00	16	9400	7788	.83	.83	-
	2.090	1.420	EL -EAY READY WEAR	51.7	0.00	1	100	147	1.45	1.47	.02+
	1.330	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.2	0.00	10	17700	19899	1.12	1.13	.01+
	1.260	.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	39.6	0.00	3	550	479	.87	.87	-
	INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 127.00 %CHG: -0.38			221	145853	350279			
	GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 163.28 %CHG: +0.55			504	305510	1202156			

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 12/07/1997

	.670	.410	JOR.TRADE FAC.	11.7	0.00	4	7250	3187	.43	.44	.01+
	1.550	1.070	ZARA FOR INVESTMENT	46.7	0.00	6	10150	11571	1.15	1.14	.01-
+N	.950	.710	JOR.FIN.INV.CO.	E	0.00	31	65900	40176	.61	.60	.01-
	.840	.660	UNION INV. 50%	g	0.00	6	50500	9090	.68	.68	-
	.660	.370	ARAB FIN.INVEST.	g	0.00	8	5250	2415	.46	.46	-
N	.950	.720	AL-SHARQ INV. 75%	P	0.00	4	20000	10300	.78	.76	.02-
	.480	.200	JOR.INDS.MATCH-JEMCO	g	0.00	8	9500	2620	.28	.28	-
	.730	.510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	g	0.00	2	4150	2200	.53	.53	-
	.590	.380	ARAB INTL.INV.TRD.	44.9	0.00	2	1450	566	.39	.39	-
	.720	.450	NATL. TEXTILE	g	0.00	2	250	118	.47	.47	-
	.750	.400	NATL.MULT.ENG.MANICO	g	0.00	26	30740	16294	.53	.53	-
N	.950	.900	READY MIX CONCRETE	11.2	0.00	2	3100	2883	.93	.93	-
	.850	.710	JORDAN STEEL	33.5	6.76	3	696	519	.75	.74	.01-
	.580	.430	ARAB ELECT.INDS.	g	0.00	1	250	125	.50	.50	-
	1.220	.860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	g	0.00	1	500	335	.92	.92	-
	.680	.550	RAZI PHARM. 85%	E	0.00	2	2000	810	.56	.55	.01-
+	.600	.350	INDS. ENG.	20.9	0.00	14	12550	4295	.35	.34	.01-
	.760	.550	PEARL SAN. P. CONV.	E	0.00	2	299	170	.57	.57	-
+N	1.000	.770	NAT.ALUMINIUM. 75%	P	0.00	3	677	345	.77	.76	.01-
	.870	.570	MID.EAST COMPLEX	7.8	15.87	8	4200	2646	.63	.63	-
	GRAND TOTAL					135	229412	110663			

↑ : New 12 months high
↓ : New 12 months low
N : Listed during the past 12 months
P : P/E ratio is 100 or more
g : Negative P/E
E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year

Egypt to sell off 15 public companies to their employees

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian government has decided to sell off 15 public companies to their 35,000 employees as part of its continuing privatisation programme, the press reported Saturday.

"These companies will be offered to allow employees working in the 15 companies to buy them in their entirety, without assuming the debts," said the minister in charge of public enterprises, Atef Obeid, quoted by government newspaper Al Ahram.

The businesses to be sold off include those involved in rice production, food, engineering, transport, shipbuilding, steel and minerals, he said.

Mr. obeid did not disclose the value of the companies, but experts estimated their worth at around $60 million.

The minister said that "before transferring ownership to the employees, the ministry will take steps to ensure the companies' success."

"The state will take over the companies' (possible) debts and put into effect a retirement plan to reduce (the number of) surplus workers," he added.

In the first six months of the year, the government decided to sell 10 public companies to their employees.

Mr. Obeid said that 162 public companies, whose debts total 2.5 billion pounds ($800 million) have been turned around and have begun to generate profits.

"Beginning in January, these companies will be sold on the stock exchange," he said, adding that they will include maritime, steel, metal and manganese companies.

The Egyptian government launched a major initiative in 1991 to liberalise the country's state-run economy.

Last month, Mr. Obeid said Egypt expected to complete its privatisation programme by 2000, raising around $15 billion from the sale of some 314 public companies.

Bahrain, Tunisia set up joint insurance company

MANAMA (AFP) — The Bahrain-based Arab Insurance Group (ARIG) has set up a joint insurance company in Tunisia with an authorised capital of $2.7 million, the Bahraini Press reported Friday.

The joint venture, called the Arab Tunisian Group (ATIG), will specialise in property and building insurance in Tunisia before aiming to branch out into life and health insurance, newspapers said.

ARIG, whose assets are estimated at $885 million, has 49.5 per cent of the new company's shares.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"I won't admit I'm getting old, but today I taped a laxative commercial over 'Bavwatch'."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LANTA

IBARR

TAWNUL

SEMQUO



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer :

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PAUSE ARBOR SURETY DONKEY
Answer: Some people do this when fighting a cold – SURRENDER

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8th Pan-Arab Games open with 3,000 athletes taking part

By Aleen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Over 3,000 athletes converged on Beirut for the opening of the 8th Pan-Arab Games which were inaugurated Saturday by Lebanese President Elias Hrawi.

With Iraqi athletes barred from competition because of a boycott threat by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, only Somalia and the Comoros Islands missed the largest gathering of Arab youth since the event was last held in Syria in 1992.

Jordan's soccer, basketball, athletics, fencing, boxing, and weightlifting teams took part in the opening ceremony. They will be joined by the rest of the teams during this week with each team arriving in Beirut one day prior to their events and leaving following the end of their respective competitions in order to cut down on expenses.

The Kingdom's 187-strong delegation which includes 94 men and 33 women athletes competing in 14 of the 20 events. The delegation also includes 27 officials, 20 coaches and 13 referees.

Twenty events have been set for the Games excluding kick-boxing, handball, gymnastics, body-building, hockey, diving and water polo for technical and financial reasons.

Jordan dropped participation in cycling, tennis and volleyball, and the entry form now includes participation in athletics, basketball, karate, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, boxing, equestrian, fencing, soccer, weightlifting, judo, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling and shooting. Other events at the Games include golf and yachting.

Basketball is scheduled to be the only team sport Jordan's women will take part in. Individual sports are athletics, swimming, taekwondo, equestrian and table tennis.

Prior to his departure to Lebanon, Jordan's Minister of Youth and Sports Qassem Abu Ein said athletes winning gold medals would receive JD500, silver medals JD300, and bronze medals JD200. Team sports will receive JD3,000, JD2,000 and JD1,000 respectively.

The minimum criteria for participation as set by the Jordan Olympic Committee's technical committee includes attaining at least a halfway standing in addition to passing a mandatory medical test in order to rule out any possible injury.

Jordanian sports officials announced their full support of the event noting the importance of taking part in the Games which have only been held seven times since 1953.

Jordan has taken part in all past seven Pan-Arab Games gaining a total of 46 medals (7 gold, 16 silver, 26 bronze).

The Kingdom's first and only gold medal in a team sport came in Morocco in 1985 when Jordan won the basketball event after defeating Iraq 80-78 in the final.

The Kingdom's only gold medal in the last Pan-Arab Games in 1992 was through Suhad Haddad in athletics. Jordan finished 9th overall in the Games with 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals.

Hosts Syria topped the medals table with 48 points, 31 silver, 37 bronze followed by Egypt and Algeria.

Organisers of the two-week-long Games said athletes will be subject to random drug-testing for the first time in the event's history and 300 samples would be taken from random samples from athletes in different sports regardless of their results in competitions. Test results will be sent to the French laboratories of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Athletes testing positive will have their results automatically scrapped and will later be suspended according to international rules.

No such tests had been done in Arab countries so far because of the high cost of about $220 per test and the unavailability of such labs in the developing countries.

The Games were due to be held last year but were postponed after the Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon.

Jordan has received preliminary approval to host the 9th Pan-Arab Games in 1999.

The Pan-Arab Games were held in Alexandria 1953, Beirut 1957, Casablanca 1961, Cairo 1965, Damascus 1976, Morocco 1985 and Damascus 1992.

Jordan's record in past Pan-Arab Games (number of competing countries in parenthesis in overall rank)

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Overall rank
1953	-	-	2	6th (8)
1957	3	4	3	6th (10)
1961	-	1	2	7th (10)
1965	-	-	3	10th (15)
1976	2	5	7	6th (11)
1985	1	-	-	12th (21)
1992	1	6	6	9th (19)



Jordan's soccer team

Jordan's soccer team meets Lebanon tonight

Nada Kawar heads athletics competition

By Aleen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's soccer, athletics and fencing teams Sunday start competition in the first three of 14 events Jordan is taking part in at the 8th Pan-Arab Games which were officially opened Saturday.

Jordan will meet hosts Lebanon in the opening of the soccer competition at 8:00 p.m. Sunday evening while Mauritania will meet Kuwait in the first match of Group 2.

In athletics, Firas Malkawi will run the marathon; Amal Mutari the women's marathon; Shadi Qa'qour the 100 and 400 metres and Nada Kawar will take part in the shot put in which she holds the Arab record at 17.39 metres.

Eight countries are taking part in the soccer event. Group 1 includes Jordan Lebanon, Oman, and Libya. Group 2 includes Kuwait, the UAE, Syria and Mauritania.

The top two teams in each group will qualify to the second round the top two teams of which move to the final while the other two will play for third and fourth places.

Jordan seems to have got the easier draw in soccer and will be facing teams they had met recently.

In World Cup qualifiers last April, they beat Oman 2-1 and 4-1 in while drawing 0-0 and losing 1-0 to Lebanon.

The soccer team has just returned from Istanbul where they met the youth team of Turkish champions Galatasaray and drew 2-2 before losing 4-1 to Turkish runners-up Istanbulsport at the conclusion of their week-long training camp.

In basketball, the men's team is in Group 1 with Syria, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Morocco.

Group 2 includes Lebanon, Qatar, the UAE, and Kuwait.

Jordan had protested at the draw and demanded a repeat of since rules stipulate that the nine competing teams should be divided into three groups with the titleholders (Syria) atop one group, the runner-up (Jordan) in another and the hosts (Lebanon) in the third.

Lebanese officials said Jordan's representative had not lodged a formal protest at the time of the draw and an oral one would not be accepted now.

While the basketball federation had said they would reconsider their participation in both the men's and women's events if the draw was not repeated, the head of the Kingdom's delegation Sari Hamdan said Jordan would not pull out of any event since that is no longer the affair of respective federations but a decision that rested with the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) and the Ministry of Youth.

Jordan had won the basketball gold medal in the 1985 Games in Morocco and finished runner-up behind Syria in the 1992 Games in Syria.

With tough competition ahead and a relatively inexperienced new lineup representing the Kingdom, Jordan will have to finish first or second in their group to qualify for the second round.

The men's team had won only one out of three friendly matches against Syria two weeks ago.

The women's team will face tough competition against strong teams from Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria.

Although the Kingdom's women's basketball team was unimpressive in friendly matches against Syria losing three of their friendly matches, women's basketball was given the go-ahead to take part in the Games by the Minister of Youth and Sports who prompted the JOC to include the team to maintain continuity for the women's game which had been non-existent from 1983-1995 when the team was regrouped and took part in the Asian Championship.

Both teams underwent a tough training regimen after the friendly matches against Syria and were boosted with the arrival from the U.S. of Jumana Salti and Zeid Alkhas, both key players on their respective teams who were chosen among the top players of the 1995 Asian Championships.

Jordan's soccer schedule

Sun. 13/7	Jordan-Lebanon
Thurs. 17/7	Jordan-Libya
Sun.20/7	Jordan-Oman
Wed 23/7	second round matches
Thurs. 24/7	second round matches
Sat. 26/7	3rd place match
Sun. 27/7	final match

WHAT TO WATCH & WHEN

	Sat 12	Sun 13	Mon 14	Tue 15	Wed 16	Thu 17	Fri 18	Sat 19	Sun 20	Mon 21	Tue 22	Wed 23	Thu 24	Fri 25	Sat 26	Sun 27
Opening Ceremony	■															
Soccer		■	■		■	■		■	■			■	■		■	■
Volleyball		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
Basketball			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Weightlifting				■	■	■	■	■	■							
Table tennis						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Karate														■	■	■
Fencing		■	■	■	■	■										
Tennis						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Yachting						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
Boxing			■	■	■	■	■	■								
Wrestling									■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Taekwondo												■	■	■	■	■
Equestrian												■	■	■	■	■
Golf						■	■	■	■							
Judo						■	■	■								
Athletics		■	■	■	■	■										
Swimming		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Shooting					■	■	■	■	■							
Cycling					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Closing Ceremony																■

Agassi returns with U.S. Open in mind

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Former World No. 1 Andre Agassi returns to the ATP Tour here next week with serious questions to answer about his tennis future after three months off with an injured wrist.

The slumping American won the Washington classic in 1990, 1991 and 1995, when he and Pete Sampras duelled for dominance. Now Agassi has slid to 30th in the world while Sampras is the unchallenged king of men's tennis.

"I can only hope when I get back to that point Pete hasn't won 25 Grand Slam titles and retired," Agassi said.

Agassi has called this slump to low point of his career, losing his first match in four consecutive events, the longest winless streak of his career.

Agassi has lost six of his past seven ATP matches and won only $442,915. Wrist pain kept him from Wimbledon and the French Open. He also missed the Australian Open.

"I don't really know what's going on with him but he definitely is missed by the whole of tennis," Sampras said at Wimbledon. "It really hurts the game."

As a result, Agassi has much to prove to himself and sceptical tennis watchers even though he has been training at full strength for only a week.

"This tournament has a different purpose for me than it ever has," Agassi said. "It is more meaningful than it has ever been."

Agassi is seeded third here behind defending champion Michael Chang and Australia's Pat Rafter in this first U.S. hard-court tuneup event for the U.S. Open, which begins August 25.

Petr Korda is seeded fourth, followed in order by Malivai Washington, Jason Stoltenberg, Chris Woodruff and Lionel Roux.

Agassi denies his slump has anything to do with his marriage to actress and model Brooke Shields, although his struggles began as their nuptials neared.

"People saying that are probably the same people saying Brooke was the reason I got to number one," Agassi said.

"There are times when tennis has been more important and much more of a priority than other times. That is something that has always been judged quite intensely by the media and in some ways I understand it.

"But at the end of the day you have got to look at yourself. And I am ready to play. I'm excited to get out there and that is a hell of a start."

Agassi also feels the pressure of a sport in need of his flamboyance, although he admits image is not everything when defeat becomes commonplace.

"You can't expect to step out on the court and carry the sport," he said. "It has to be the result of how good you are and how many people enjoy watching you. The most important thing has to be your results."

Mets rally past Braves again; Giants lose

ATLANTA (R) — Matt Franco supplied more torrid pinch-hitting with a two-run double that highlighted a four-run, eighth-inning rally and lifted the New York Mets to their fifth straight win, 9-7 over the Atlanta Braves Friday.

"You can't imagine ever coming back 5-1 against tom Glavine," said Mets manager Bobby Valentine.

In Los Angeles, Hideo Nomo allowed one run over eight innings and Todd Zeile hit a two-run homer in a six-run sixth as the Dodgers posted their eighth straight win, 6-2 over the San Francisco Giants.

Nomo (9-7) scattered nine hits, walked two and struck out seven. He has given up just one run and 12 hits over his last 14 innings and has won three of his last four decisions.

In Pittsburgh, Mike Hampton fired a five-hitter for his second career shutout and Derek Bell had three hits including a solo homer, leading the Houston Astros to their fourth straight victory, a 10-0 rout of the Pirates.

In Chicago, rookie Jeremi Gonzalez allowed one run over 7 1/3 innings to earn his fourth straight win and Sammy Sosa homered and drove in four runs as the Cubs routed the slumping St. Louis Cardinals 7-1. Gonzalez (6-2) allowed five hits with four walks and four strikeouts before exiting following Ray Lankford's 18th homer in the eighth. In two appearances against the Cards, the 22-year-old right-hander is 2-0 with a 0.55 era. The Cardinals have dropped five of their last six.

In Miami, Scott Rolen homered and drove in a career-high five runs and Curt Schilling struck out 10 over six innings as the Philadelphia Phillies routed the Marlins 13-3 to snap a 13-game road losing streak. The 13 runs were a season high for Philadelphia.

Schilling (10-8) allowed two runs — one earned — and six hits for his first win since June 23, also against Florida. The right-hander improved to 6-1 lifetime against the Marlins.

In Cincinnati, David Segui's two-run homer in the sixth put Montreal ahead to stay and Ugueth Urbina struck out four over the final 1 1/3 innings as the Expos rallied for a 5-2 victory over the Reds.

Doug strange also drove in two runs for Montreal, which has won two after a four-game losing streak. Reds starter Dave Burba (5-9) had held the Expos to one hit and took a 1-0 lead into the sixth before Segui's homer.

In Colorado, Andres Galarraga drew a bases-loaded walk off Trevor Hoffman (3-4) with two out in the bottom of the 11th as the Rockies snapped a season-high seven-game losing streak, 6-5 over the San Diego Padres.

TODAY AT

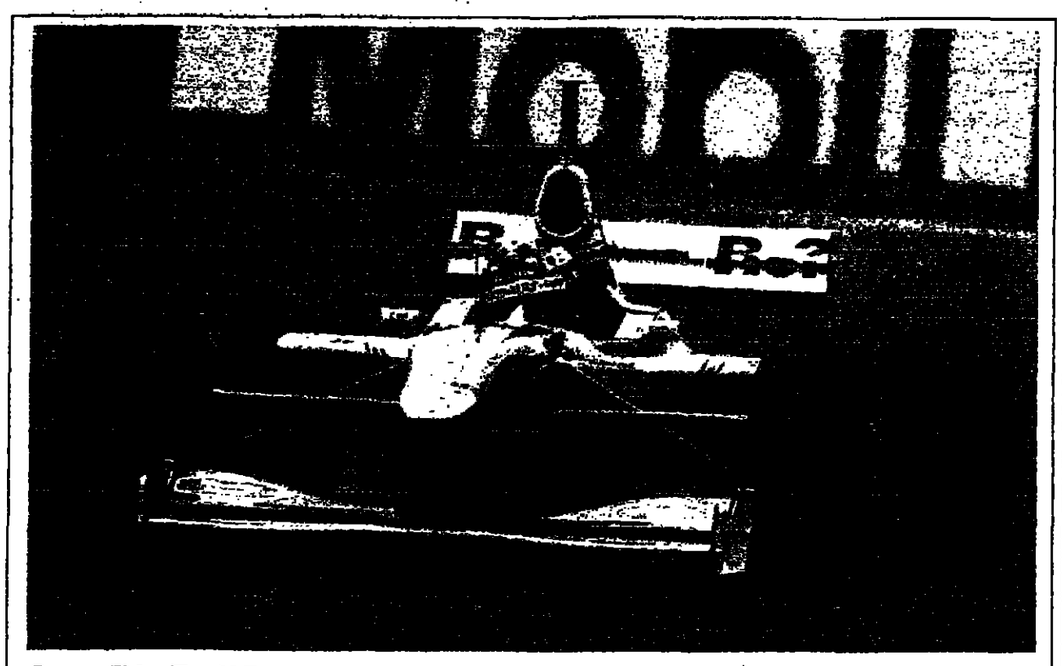
CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "1"
Jim Carrey ... in
LIAR LIAR
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "2"
Leslie Nielsen ... in
DRACULA DEAD & LOVING IT
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15
GONE WITH THE WIND
Show: 8:30 p.m. only

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA
Tom Cruise...in
JERRY MAGUIRE
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
CONCORD
CONCORD "1"
Harrison Ford & Brad Pitt...in
DEVIL'S OWN
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
CONCORD "2"
Michael Jordan...in
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German Heinz-Harald Frentzen powers his way around Woodcote bend of the Silverstone track to qualify in second position for Sunday's British Grand Prix July 12. Canadian Jacques Villeneuve claimed the pole position ahead of teammate Frentzen in the last two laps of the qualifying session (Reuters photo)

Nevada toughens law in response to Tyson's ear-biting

CARSON CITY, Nevada (R) — Nevada Governor Bob Miller on Friday signed a law inspired by the Mike Tyson ear-biting incident that allows the state to fine boxers up to 100 per cent of their purse for unsportsmanlike conduct.

The new law comes too late to apply to Tyson, the former world heavyweight champion who was disqualified for biting Evander Holyfield's ears in their June 28 world title fight in Las Vegas. The five-member Nevada State Athletic Commission this week revoked Tyson's licence to fight in the state for at least a year and fined him 10 per cent of his $30 million purse, the maximum allowed under the old state law.

Amid public outrage over the ear-biting, the Nevada legislature moved quickly to give the commission the power to seize all of a boxer's purse if a similar incident happened again.

The law takes immediate effect but is not retroactive.

It allows the commission to impose fines of up to 100 per cent of his purse on a boxer who takes part in a sham contest, who "terminates the contest or exhibition in a manner that is not based upon honest competition," or who "is guilty of an act or conduct that is detrimental to a contest or exhibition of unarmed combat."



Erik Zabel of Germany celebrates as he wins in a mass sprint in front of Estonian Jaan Kisipuu (R) the 194km seventh stage of the Tour de France cycling race Marennes to Bordeaux. Cedric Vasseur of France retains his yellow jersey (Reuters photo)

Lewis lighter than usual, Akinwande heavier

STATELINE, Nevada (R) — World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis weighed in Friday at his second lightest in almost three years while fellow Briton Henry Akinwande was just under his heaviest ever for their title bout Saturday.

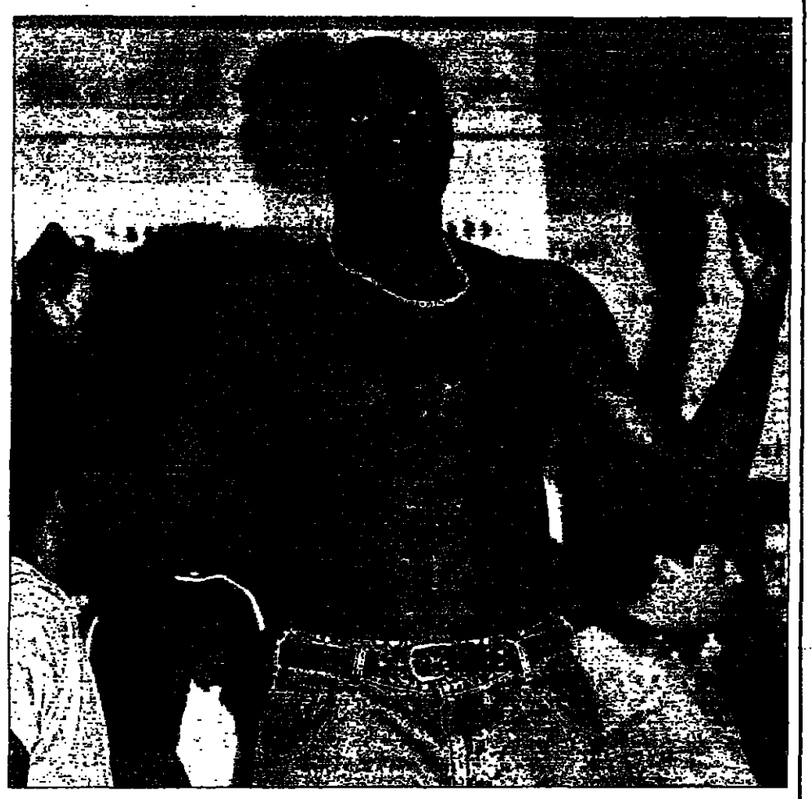
Lewis came it at 109.8 kg. Akinwande was 107.7 kg, a .2 kg below the heaviest weight of his eight-year career.

But the weights won't be a determining factor in their 12-round title bout. The fight is about strategies, both camps agree.

The harder-hitting Lewis must show aggression he has not displayed during his past two bouts but has exhibited in training for this fight. Akinwande must use his superior jab and movement.

Lewis's trainer, Emanuel Steward, believes the champion will blunt Akinwande's attack. "Lewis will neutralise his jab after a few rounds and wear him down with power."

Akinwande's trainer, Don Turner, believes the challenger has more going for him than just the jab. "He's got enough firepower to stand up with this guy," Turner said.



WBC Heavyweight challenger Henry Akinwande tips the scale at 237 1/2 pounds at the offical weigh-in in Lake Tahoe for his heavyweight championship fight with Lennox Lewis. Both fighters are from England (Reuters photo)

It is anticipated that the winner eventually will meet the victor of a tentatively planned unification heavyweight title bout between World Boxing Association champion Evander Holyfield and International Boxing Federation champ Michael Moorer.

The 31-year-old Lewis, who has a record of 30-1 with 25 victories ending early, will make $1.5 million, according to various reports, and the 31-year-old Akinwande, 32-0-1 with 19 wins inside the distance, will make $1 million.

Lewis is a 7-1/2 to 5 favourite, down from 9 to 5 Wednesday and 8 to 5 Thursday, according to casino oddsmakers in Stateline.

Zabel bounces back with stage win

BORDEAUX (Agencies) — Germany's Erik Zabel won the seventh stage of the Tour de France on Saturday, 24 hours after being relegated from first to last for dangerour tactics in Friday's finish in Marennes.

He sprinted in for his second success in five days to cut the overall lead of Frenchman Cedric Vasseur to one minute 49 seconds by virtune of his winner's time bonus.

Estonian Jaan Kirsipuu was second and Dutchman Jeroen Blijlevens third in the 194 kms leg from Marennes, raced at an average speed of 46.3 kph.

French contenders Richard Virenque and Luc Leblanc with Italian Marco Pantani finished 50 seconds in arrears after being trapped behind a mass crash five kilometres from the finish.

Italians Marco Saligari, Flavio Vanzella, and Adriano Baffi were caught 15 kms outside the city after leading for 177 kms.

Italy's Mario Cipollini pulled out of the Tour de France shortly after starting the 7th stage here Saturday.

The Italian, who wore the leader's yellow jersey for four days, pulled up after 25 kilometres.

On Friday Cipollini was involved in a pile-up, cutting his right knee and injuring his hand, which was sprayed by a team medico.

The Italian, who won two stages earlier in the week, had not been a happy rider after having a blazing row with his team manager Antonio Salutini on Thursday night about the lack of support he received on Thursday, when he lost his yellow jersey to Frenchman Cedric Vasseur.

Corretja out of Swiss Open

GSTAAD, Switzerland (AFP) — Unheralded Spaniard Juan Albert Viloca shocked his compatriot and second seed Alex Corretja here on Saturday beating him 3-6, 7-6 (5/7), 6-4 to reach his first ever ATP final.

Viloca, ranked 67th in the world, outlasted Corretja, the Italian Open champion, in a comeback which stretched to two hours 32 minutes on the high-altitude clay of Gstaad.

Corretja, who failed to take the tie when serving for the match at 5-4 in the second set, had to have treatment while trailing 3-5 in the third after a blister on his right index finger popped while he was reaching for a volley.

"I couldn't go on, there was blood on my racket," said the disappointed Spaniard.

"I've had five weeks away from tennis (with a thigh injury following the French Open) and I started to get a little tired after I lost the second set.

"But it was good to reach the semi-finals here. I'm starting to rediscover my game, though I would have liked to reach the final, " he added.

The 23-year-old Corretja, who with 28 wins has recorded the most claycourt match victories this season, was counting on the third set to dismiss Viloca, a 24-year-old whose best showing until this week was a quarter-final at Coral Springs in the United States in May.

But Viloca broke for 4-3 in the third to insure the upset win.

"I don't know what to say, I'm so happy. I feel very good. I have never beaten Alex in two times before," Viloca said.

"I'm dead now from all of the running. But I hope to be able to play a good final tomorrow. I kept fighting today, that was the key," he added.

South Africa's Wayne Ferreira, the only non-Spaniard in the final four, was taking on sixth seed Felix Mantilla for the other final place.

The 25-year-old Ferreira, who put out Swiss favourite Marc Rosset in the quarter-finals, has not reached a final since winning a Mercedes Super 9 title at Toronto 11 months ago.

Felix Mantilla insured an all-Spanish finale at the Swiss Open for the second year in a row as he ousted Wayne Ferreira, the only non-Iberian in the final four, 6-3, 6-4.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

CHERCHEZ LA FEMME

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠K953
♡765
◇K103
♣K65

WEST
♠Q86
♡2
◇AJ98
♣J7432

EAST
♠7
♡KQJ10984
◇Q43
♣98

SOUTH
♠AJ1042
♡A3
◇762
♣AQ10

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
3♡	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: Two of ♡

Those cute bridge maxims are all well and good, and in run-of-the-mill situations are accurate enough. But each hand has to be judged on its own, and a clever saying is no substitute for clear reasoning.

South has a problem over East's preempt, but that is what preempts were designed to do. The hand is too strong not to act, the distribution is wrong for a takeout double and the long suit leaves a great deal to be desired for a three-level overcall. Eventually South decided that the overcall was the least of evils, and a good four-spade contract resulted.

West led what was obviously a singleton heart, taken in the closed hand. With the ace of diamonds surely in the West hand because of East's preempt, declarer was facing one heart and two diamond losers in the plain suits. To bring home the contract, declarer would have to bring in the trump suit without losing a trick.

'Eight ever, nine never' says the bromide; but there are good reasons to ignore it here. With East marked for seven hearts, there must be a singleton somewhere in the East hand, and it is most likely in declarer's longest combined suit. Also, East has only six cards outside of hearts while West has 12, making West twice as likely as East to hold the queen of trumps.

At trick two declarer cashed the ace of trumps, in case the queen was singleton, then continued with the jack. West played low smoothly, but there was no diverting declarer from the chosen path. A low spade was played from dummy, and all was well.

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Iraqi athletes protest exclusion from Pan-Arab Games at border

MASNAA (AP) — Denied a chance to compete in the Arab world's biggest sports event, Iraqi athletes stuck at the Lebanese border Saturday vented their anger at Kuwait and lamented the Arab divisions that have persisted since the 1991 Gulf war.

Lebanon has refused to give the Iraqis visas to avoid angering Kuwait, which has threatened to boycott if Iraq takes part.

The 100 Iraqi athletes, trainers and officials arrived Friday at the no man's land on the border after a 30-hour journey by bus from Baghdad through neighbouring Syria. They hoped to complete the two-hour drive to Beirut to take part in the 8th Arab Games beginning Saturday and running through July 27.

The team travelled overland since flights in or out of Iraq are banned by U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

The Iraqis have said they will stay put until Lebanese authorities confirm in writing what immigration officers have already told them — that no visas would be issued.

On Friday, they napped, trained, prayed and played cards. But as the opening of the games drew closer Saturday, the frustrated Iraqis began a boisterous demonstration at the border.

The team, trainers and officials shouted anti-Kuwait slogans and sang nationalist songs, praising Iraq and leader Saddam Hussein.

"Iraq is steadfast, Kuwait is scared," they shouted.

The Iraqis unfurled banners they brought along with them, calling for Arab unity and criticising games without Baghdad.

"Yes for sports which unite the ranks and no to sports that divide the Arabs," said one banner. "Solidarity and unity is what Iraq always seeks," said another.

Iraq was not invited to the 7th Arab Games in Syria in 1992. But this time, the Arab League did not exclude Iraq from its invitation to all 22 members, and Iraq has insisted it take part.

"The games are one of the occasions which should have been a factor to unite the youths," Asel Tabra, head of the Iraqi team, said in a statement he read at the border.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, major contributors to Lebanon's post-civil war reconstruction, have pressed Beirut to keep the Iraqis out. Lebanon complied, even though tension with Iraq had eased recently with the dispatch of a trade team to Baghdad.

Syria, which dominates neighbouring Lebanon politically and militarily, could have easily pressured the Lebanese into granting the Iraqis visas, especially since Damascus' trade relations with Baghdad also have improved in recent weeks.

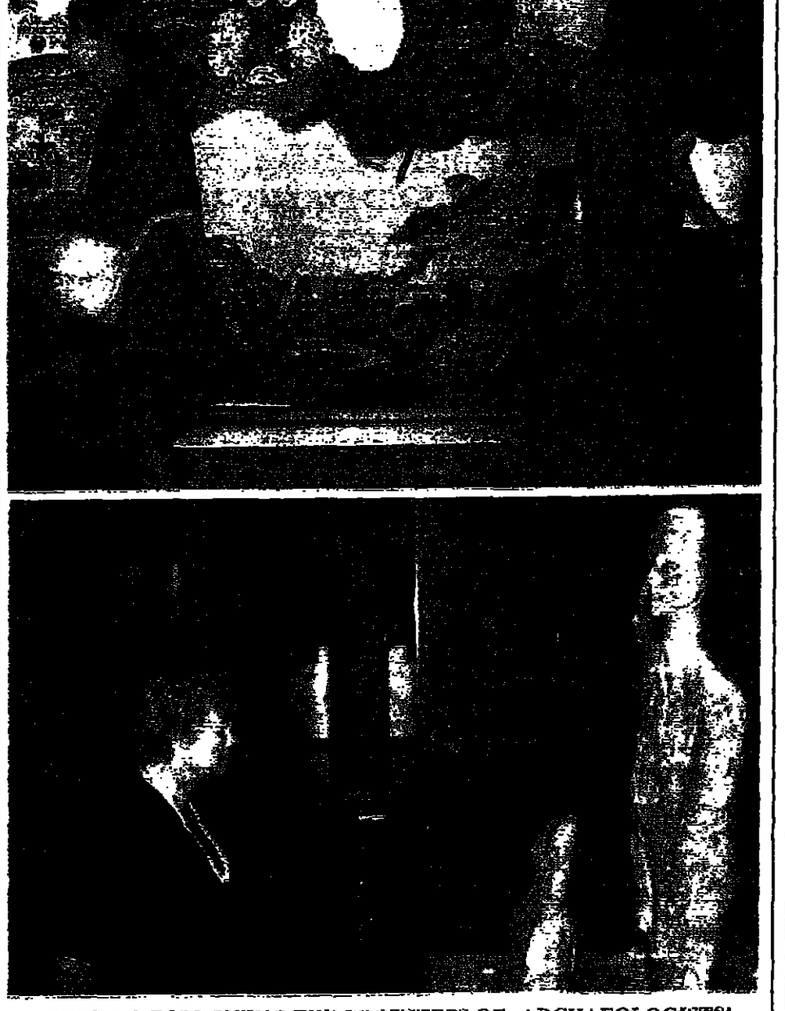
But by allowing the Iraqis to cross their territory and taking a hands-off position with Lebanon, the Syrians avoided openly angering the Iraqis or damaging good relations with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

"It is a shame that the Lebanese government bends to financial pressures," the Iraqi newspaper Babil said in an editorial.

A lone Lebanese woman drove an hour from the city of Baalbek in eastern Lebanon to visit the Iraqi team.

"I am here to show solidarity and to congratulate you," said Raqiya Yaghi, who lives in Baghdad and is vacationing in Lebanon.

(See story on Arab Games on page 10)



'JORDAN, FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS'

Paris - July 11

Top picture: **A woman passes in front of a mosaic of ornamental tiling during the Jordanian show of ancient archaeology in Paris.**

Bottom picture: **A woman looks at Jordan's Ain Ghazal statues dating back to 7500-6700 BC (AFP photos)**



Caricature of scantily-clad first lady removed from Berlin show

BERLIN (AFP) — A caricature of a scantily-clad Hannelore Kohl offering her charms on the German chancellor's official Mercedes was withdrawn from a show here, its organiser Wolfgang Kleinert said Thursday. Kohl had already sued Penthouse after the caricature of his wife appeared in the porn magazine in January. Organisers of the Miracles of Unification Exhibition were keen to keep on including the caricature in spite of Kohl's wrath but changed their mind when told the chancellor meant business. Kleinert said no visitor had complained.

Egypt police arrest blind car stereo thief

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police arrested a blind man who confessed to breaking into cars and stealing their stereos, the Akhbar Al Youm newspaper said on Saturday. The newspaper said police nabbed the unnamed man after a car owner saw him drive his vehicle for a few kilometres, quickly pull out the stereo and then walk away. Investigations showed the man had turned into a professional car stereo thief when he was blinded two years ago as a result of drinking cheap liquor.

Sacked U.K. priest has heavenly employer, court says

LONDON (R) — A court has ruled that priests have no rights under Britain's employment laws because they work for God and not an earthly employer. Three appeal court judges decided that an Anglican curate, Rev. Alex Coker, had no right to take his case for unfair dismissal before an industrial tribunal. "A minister of religion serves God and his congregation but does not serve an employer," the judge, Lord Justice Christopher Staughton, said. Rev. Coker, 48, claimed he was unfairly sacked in 1994, losing the house and car that came with the 12,000 pounds a year job as curate in southwest London, according to newspaper reports. Judge Staughton said: "I don't think you have an address for God so you will not be able to give any documents."

Man plays judge for a day — fined $1,000

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — A man who impersonated a judge was fined $1,000 by the real thing. "It was just a big joke," said Richard Martinez, 25, who pleaded guilty to posing as a municipal judge. He was sentenced on Wednesday. Martinez, who worked as a court interpreter, said he pretended to be a judge last September at the request of Menifee Police Chief Van Porter. At the mock court session, Martinez found two women guilty of traffic offences, fined them a total of $350 and ordered them to do community service. One woman paid $345, but a few weeks into the community service work the women discovered they had never been charged and went to the police. "When you've got the chief of police himself telling you that it's OK to play this joke, I assumed it was OK," Martinez said.

Yemen will not be burden on bloc of Gulf states — official

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries, will not be a financial burden if it joined the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), an exclusive club of oil-rich monarchies, a Yemeni official said Saturday.

"Most of the GCC states agree to Yemen joining the council, and say to us frankly that 'your place is in the GCC'," Yemeni Foreign Ministry undersecretary Ghaleb Ali Jameel told the Kuwaiti daily Al Rai Al Aam.

"But there are one or two states which refuse, and I do not understand the philosophy of this refusal," he said, without naming any countries.

In April, Yemeni President Ali Abdallah Saleh said Sanaa asked to join during the December summit of the GCC — which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — but the request was refused.

"We say to our Gulf brothers: Do not fear Yemen's joining because it will not place a financial or economic burden on you," Mr. Jameel said.

Yemen's relations with other Gulf states, mainly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, were severely strained during 1990-1991 Gulf crisis when Sanaa was seen to side with Iraq during the seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

Kuwait reduced its representation in Sanaa to charge d'affaires, while the Yemeni embassy in Kuwait has been closed since then.

"We will not forget all the assistance Kuwait offered Yemen since 1950 until 1990, the date of the great Arab disaster," Mr. Jameel said.

Kuwait, a generous aid donor, cut off support to Yemen after the invasion.

But there have been signs of slowly improving ties, including a visit to Sanaa by an academic delegation which met the Yemeni president.

"We hope that relations between Yemen and Kuwait return to normal. We have tried to do that several times without response," he said, adding "we understand their feelings."

Spanish hostage executed

SAN SEBASTIAN (AFP) — Spanish politician Miguel Angel Blanco Garrido was found shot to death on Saturday after he was kidnapped by Basque separatists who threatened to kill him, judicial officials said.

The armed Basque separatist group ETA had threatened to killed Blanco Garrido if the Spanish government did not regroup hundreds of ETA prisoners to jails in the Basque country by 4 p.m. Saturday...

Blanco Garrido's body was found near a railway line with a gunshot wound and hands tied behind his back around 5:15 p.m. in the town of Lasarte in the northern Basque country, judicial officials said.

Spanish rescue services said earlier that in Lasarte they had found a man with a gunshot wound to the head and arms tied behind his back, but did not identify him.

Hundreds of residents in Ermua village, where Blanco Garrido served as a local council member for the party of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, shouted "killers" as they erupted in rage or burst into tears upon learning of the execution.

Sudan rebel leader says war irreversible and rejects truce

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese guerrilla leader John Garang said on Saturday he had rejected a ceasefire request by Sudan and that gains made in the rebels' most recent offensive were irreversible.

Col. Garang, head of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), told Reuters that he would not accept a ceasefire before agreeing with Khartoum on a broader framework for negotiation.

"(President Omar Hassan) Bashir wanted a ceasefire but our response is a ceasefire must part of an overall agreement. It cannot come first, it comes last after details have been agreed," said Col. Garang in an interview at his Nairobi residence.

Col. Garang said Mr. Bashir's request for a ceasefire was conveyed to regional heads of state at the Inter-Governmental Development Authority (IGAD) summit in Nairobi earlier this week.

"The government is losing ground so he (Bashir) wants a ceasefire," he said.

The veteran guerrilla leader said his forces, operating in an alliance with exiled northern rebels, had made firm gains in the latest fighting.

"We have gained a lot. We have captured territory, towns and garrisons from Khartoum forces. This time our military advances are irreversible," Col. Garang added.

On Monday, Col. Garang told reporters his forces had stepped up the military campaign and were now encircling Juba, the capital of the war-torn south.

Col. Garang's forces and northern allies in the opposition National Democratic Alliance (NDA) have launched a series of successful offensives this year and recaptured a string of towns prompting Khartoum to order a general mobilisation.

Initial hopes of agreement on a basis for talks at the IGAD summit faltered on Wednesday. Although all participating countries, including Sudan, signed a framework that was to be the starting point for negotiations, the Sudanese president later said it was not binding.

In response the SPLA refused to start talks unless the agreement was binding on both parties.

Col. Garang said the SPLA was at its best politically and militarily.

"The SPLA is much more robust than ever before. We have gone through the fire and we have survived it," Col. Garang said in reference to splits which rocked the SPLA in 1991.

Previous SPLA advances have been overturned by the Sudanese army, but Col. Garang said that newly acquired support from the country's north would help ensure the latest gains were permanent.

Khartoum claims that the SPLA is being supported by neighbouring countries such as Uganda, Eritrea and Ethiopia but Col. Garang denied he was receiving anything other than moral support.

Although admitting that he welcomed the change of regime in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he dismissed reports that the SPLA had assisted the rebels who ousted former Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko as unfounded media speculation.

"The change of government in the Congo is a windfall for us but we never took part in events that led up to the change," he said.

The SPLA has fought since 1983 for greater autonomy of the Animist and Christian south from the Arabised Muslim north.

Clinton visits strong NATO ally Denmark

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton visited the United States' strong North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ally Denmark Saturday, the last leg of a European tour after a historic NATO summit in Madrid earlier this week.

Mr. Clinton, the first U.S. president to visit Denmark while in office, was welcomed to the country with great pomp and circumstance Friday evening, coming off a triumphant visit to Romania despite blocking its NATO membership in the first wave of expansion.

The U.S. leader, who succeeded in convincing the Western alliance to agree to invite only Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to join, was expected to focus on the three Baltic states' NATO aspirations during his one-day visit to Denmark.

At an open-air speech Saturday before an expected 20,000 people at Copenhagen's Nytorv Square, where criminals were executed until 1756, Mr. Clinton was expected to recognise the Danish government's successful efforts to get "the Baltic region" — Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania — mentioned as aspiring members in NATO's final summit declaration.

Denmark was the first country to recognise the Baltic states' independence in 1991 and has pushed hard for their membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

The U.S. has been forced to walk a fine line on Baltic NATO membership as Moscow, which reluctantly accepted NATO expansion into the former Warsaw Pact countries, is vehemently opposed to the idea.

The Baltics, which hope to be invited to join in 1999, were Soviet republics from 1914-1991 and are home to large Russian minorities.

On Saturday, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, who was accompanying Mr. Clinton in Copenhagen, said Russia would not be alienated following NATO's decision to recognise the Baltics.

"We have nothing to fear from the outcome in Madrid, quite the contrary. The Madrid communique ... is totally consistent with what the alliance has been saying all along," he said.

Noting that the Baltic issue is "tricky" and "complex," Mr. Talbott said "it is important that Russia feel that it is a beneficiary (of the expansion process), but that depends on Russia's own attitude."

Prior to his speech Saturday, Mr. Clinton attended a luncheon in his honour hosted by Queen Margrethe II at Fredensborg Castle, the royal family's summer residence inspired by an Italian villa and located 40 kilometres north of the capital in the Danish countryside.

He was also scheduled to lay a wreath at the memorial cemetery of the resistance movement commemorating the thousands of Danes killed during World War II before talks with Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen.

Copenhagen has gone "Clinton crazy" in the days leading up to the brief visit: newspapers have dedicated several pages each day to the visit, a bar owner has created a "Clinton cocktail" for the occasion and security around town is tighter than Danes have ever seen.

Organisers of the ongoing Copenhagen Jazz Festival were hoping Mr. Clinton would get up on one of the many stages in town and pick up his favourite instrument, the saxophone, and the mayor of the bicycle-fanatic city was expected to present the U.S. leader with a specially-designed bike called City Bike One, a reference to the official presidential aircraft Air Force One.

But not everyone was thrilled by the visit.

Danish Television TV2, one of two channels providing live coverage of the entire visit, was forced to bow to public pressure and agree to cut away from part of its planned coverage Saturday to broadcast the Tour de France — irritated Danes had complained about not being able to follow their countryman Bjarne Riis, the 1996 champion of the prestigious race.

And 30 extreme-left organisations planned a large demonstration in central Copenhagen for Saturday afternoon, protesting everything from NATO to the U.S. death penalty to American imperialism in the world.

The U.S. president was scheduled to leave for Washington immediately after his speech Saturday in order to arrive in time to attend Vice-President Al Gore's daughter's wedding.

Lebanese economic delegation visits Tehran

TEHRAN (AFP) — A Lebanese economic delegation arrived here Saturday in the first such visit since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, which could pave the way for a trip by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, officials said.

The delegation, led by Lebanese Economy Minister Yassine Jaber, will participate in a joint economic meeting, the official news agency IRNA said.

Members of the economic delegation include Lebanese Senior Finance Secretary Fuad Saniora and Central Bank Governor Ryad Salame, IRNA said. During their week-long visit, the delegates will hold talks with housing ministry and other Iranian officials, IRNA said.

Several members of the Hariri government have paid working visits to Iran and Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister Michel Murr represented Lebanon here at the 1996 inauguration of the "New Silk Road."

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said at the beginning of May that Mr. Hariri is expected to pay an official visit to Iran in a few months.

W. Bankers hold first mass wedding

NABLUS (AFP) — Young Palestinians hoping to get married may no longer have to wait years to save up the money. This week 15 Palestinian couples were married in a mass ceremony organised by religious groups, including Hamas, in the West Bank town of Nablus — and judging by the enthusiasm of the 15,000 people who witnessed the ceremony, it will not be the last.

Thousands of locals crammed into a Nablus mosque and spilled out onto the streets Thursday evening where the prospective spouses gathered with a small group of family and friends.

The vast majority of witnesses were not on any guest list. After a short prayer ceremony, the crowd made way for the wedding procession of drummers and singers followed by the couples on horseback.

They rode with their forefingers in the air repeating prayers for luck, although most of them had ridden for the first time only days before. One was ignominiously thrown to the ground. He quickly composed himself, brushed the dust from his black suit and defiantly rode again, this time with both forefingers in the air. They made their way to an open space, staked out with flags bearing the words "There is no God but God" and which just hours before had been heavy with traffic.

The couples mounted a platform with wreaths of carnations round their necks amidst the ululations of a group of local women. In the carnival atmosphere, the presiding preacher repeatedly called for order while thousands of young men and women who came to see the spectacle milled around an invisible line the organisers had drawn to separate the sexes.

For the thousands of young Palestinians watching, the ceremony gave hope that an affordable marriage would one day be within their reach.

"This makes me hope that I will be able to get married," said Osama Ashur, a 20-year-old electrician. "Marrying like this is much easier. People don't compete over who can provide the most expensive biscuits or drinks. The value is religious. People have become greedy because they are distant from religion," he said. According to Wael Hashash, one of the wedding organisers, these days bride price, or "mahr" — which men must pay to the families of their prospective brides — can cost between 15 and 20,000 Jordanian dinars in the cities.

That doesn't include the cost of furniture for the newlyweds' home. In villages and camps, bride prices average around 6,000 dinars, he said. But according to Mr. Hashash, the bridegrooms paid very little in the collective ceremony in Nablus.